

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

No Place to Curb Your Car

The Perils of Parking in Noe Valley

By Larry Beresford

As any driver in Noe Valley can testify, parking is a big problem—and it seems to become more of a headache every year. Finding a legal parking place on or near 24th Street for shopping in the neighborhood requires more circling than it used to—or else illegal or double-parking. Neighborhood auto owners unable to locate or afford garage space must go further afield or start earlier in the evening to find overnight on-street parking.

However, frustrated Noe Valley drivers may take some solace in knowing that their personal observations of the worsening parking situation are supported by the numbers. According to the San Francisco Parking Authority, the total number of legal motor vehicles in San Francisco has increased by almost 50,000 in the past 10 years, from 368,744 in 1975 to 414,523 last year.

And there is no sign that this rise in



A major source of neighborhood gridlock, Bell Market's parking lot remains symptomatic of a citywide automobile glut. True sadists enjoy double-parking outside Tien Fu or Real Food across from Bell. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.

the number of cars searching for limited parking places will be slowed in the near future. That's because the 850 miles of streets in San Francisco's 46 total square miles—and thus the number of potential on-street parking places—has not increased significantly in the past 20 years, according to Norman Bray, senior traffic engineer for the city's Department of Public Works (DPW).

"Back 10 years ago, we thought we had a problem, and it couldn't get any worse because there was no place to put 'em," Bray said. "Since then we've collectively bought another 50,000 vehicles, and most of them have been squeezed onto the streets."

Ray King, director of the Parking Au-

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Annual Haunt Forced to Find A New House

By Denise Minor

Dracula and Marie Antoinette may be looking for a new hangout this Halloween, since the Noe Valley haunted house they usually frequent is too small to accommodate all their fans.

For the past five years, the two popular characters and their cohorts have thrilled children at a haunted house sponsored by neighborhood organizations and held Oct. 31 at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street. But last year over 1,000 little goblins, ghosts and other costumed kids packed the church's hall, and organizer Marilyn Lucas says that number is too many.

"It just isn't safe," said Lucas at a September Friends of Noe Valley meeting. "It's possible that the haunted house has become so successful that it's outgrown itself."

Albert Aramendia, the new principal at James Lick Middle School, told Lucas she could use the school auditorium for a Halloween festival. But Lucas found out she would have to pay \$800 for a one-night insurance policy in addition to the \$700 she needs to spend on decorations, entertainment and refreshments.

The \$800 would provide the \$500,000 coverage required for large events at the school, she said.

In the past, the Halloween tab has been split by the Friends, the Noe Valley Merchants Association, the Business & Professional Association of Noe Valley, and the East and West of Castro Street Improvement Club. At their recent meeting, the Friends approved \$175 for their part of the regular budget, but voted down any appropriation for the insurance.

Members suggested charging admission at James Lick or limiting attendance at the Noe Valley Ministry. But Lucas refused. "This is an alternative to trick-or-treating," said Lucas. "We want it free, so as many as want to come can come."

She also sees advantages to having the festival in the James Lick auditorium, where there would be stage entertainment instead of a haunted house. "Last year the children waited in a long line to see the haunted house," said Lucas. "It is better to put everything on stage in a theater production, so we can maximize the number who participate at one time."

To meet the insurance cost, Lucas is searching for a donor. Last month she planned to submit a request for \$800 to the city's Hotel Tax Fund, which she believed might fund the event. But a spokeswoman at the Hotel Tax office said her agency only accepted applications once a year—in February.

So unless someone had stepped forward with \$800 before the Sept. 30 deadline Lucas had set for herself, the Halloween party will be called off, she said. "It's a Catch-22," Lucas lamented. "Our little haunted house got to be so popular that we just can't have it this year."

Anybody who'd like to be a knight in shining armor this Halloween should call Lucas at 285-6265 or co-coordinator Darlene Shadel at 550-0528. □

Single Women Seek Advice About AIDS

By Denise Minor

In a city known for its "young and unattached" scene, the AIDS epidemic is casting a long shadow over the love lives of single women.

"Women are worried about dating. It's a very stressful situation," says Noe Valley psychotherapist Mercedes Carter. "It

was hard enough when herpes came along. But now with AIDS, many women are saying they just don't want to be out 'in the market.'"

Carter counsels single women both individually and in a weekly group of about 15.

At first glance, the statistics on the probability of a woman catching AIDS

through sex don't look very scary. As of July 28, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., had documented 1,510 female AIDS cases, while 21,282 men had fallen victim to the syndrome.

Of those women, 20 percent were infected by sex with a man and others got it mainly through intravenous drug use or blood transfusions. What alarms many, however, is the malady's accelerating growth. Cases reported to CDC show an average of 10 new women nationwide being struck every week this summer.

In San Francisco, a city considered a model for its AIDS education and treatment facilities, awareness is high. And this is having a profound effect on the way women lead their lives, says Mary Cantrell, coordinator of the STOP AIDS Project, an education agency which every week sponsors 3½-hour discussion groups about AIDS.

"More people in San Francisco know about AIDS than any other city in the world," she says. "They're thinking about it and acting on what they know."

The city's AIDS hotline reported a doubling in phone calls from women during the past six months. Coordinator Tom Mosmiller of the city's free AIDS antibody testing program said more women were coming in for tests, although he could not say how many more because the health program did not keep statistics on gender.

Dr. Ira Golditch, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at San Francisco's Kaiser Permanente Hospital, reports "a lot more concern among women patients I see. More and more are asking questions because women have relationships with bisexual men."

Area pharmacies report women make up an increasing percentage of condom buyers. Women are even joining homosexual men in Erotic Safe Sex classes in

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More Light on AIDS Issues

The medical, political and spiritual aspects of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) will be explored in a three-part series during October at the Noe Valley Ministry.

Titled "Gays and Straights Together," the series is dedicated to a congregation member who came down with the AIDS virus early this year. "Ever since we heard in February that he had AIDS, we have kept a candle lit for him night and day," said assistant pastor Hope Raymond. The congregation member's illness inspired the church to become more active in AIDS education and consequently to sponsor the public forum, she said.

The Noe Valley Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez St., considers itself a "More Light" congregation, which is a term Presbyterians use to identify ministries that welcome homosexuals. "We offer gays and lesbians full status and support," Raymond noted.

The series begins Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. with a service led by Rev. Janie Spahr from the Ministry of Light, a gay and lesbian ministry in Tiburon. At 11:30 a.m., the San Francisco AIDS Foundation will give a slide presentation on the symptoms, treatment, transmission and prevention of AIDS.

On Oct. 19, Chuck Forester, an assistant to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, will

speak on the political fallout from AIDS at 11:30 a.m., following a service led by Noe Valley Ministry pastor Carl Smith.

Forester will take a look at the various actions city agencies and others have taken to stem the AIDS epidemic. He is also likely to discuss the LaRouche initiative, a Nov. 4 ballot measure that would quarantine AIDS patients, Raymond said.

After Forester's talk, the ministry will hold a reception honoring the mayor's office.

The next Sunday, Oct. 26, the Rev. Elder James Sandmire of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, another gay congregation, will lead the service at 10 a.m., with Raymond co-preaching.

Afterwards (11:30 a.m.), Lyn Paleo, the Northern California service director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, will give a personal testimony about the AIDS patients she has known. Those attending will then break into smaller discussion groups, with at least one in each circle having had some contact with an AIDS patient.

The ministers will then lead a healing service for AIDS victims. The candle which the ministry has kept glowing for over eight months in honor of the congregation member who is ill will be re-lit at the end of the healing service.

For more information, call 282-2265.

Letters

Editor:

I'd like to thank Steve Steinberg and the *Noe Valley Voice* for an excellent article about Alvarado School [July/August 1986 issue]. The teachers and parents felt it was one of the few times an article has been written about a school addressing school programs and plans in an honest and positive manner.

We have had lots of feedback from Noe Valley parents and school district members. The article was not only interesting reading but has assisted us in our efforts for integration under the consent decree.

The parents, teachers and students of Alvarado School also wish to thank Bell, Safeway at Diamond Heights and Sunshine Market at Douglass for their generous contributions towards our barbecue [held Sept. 23]. Surf Super Market deserves a special thanks for the delicious hot dogs which helped make the cleanup day in preparation for the arts program a great success. This kind of community involvement is what makes Noe Valley the place it is!

Michele Merchant
PTA President
Alvarado School

BITCH, BITCH, BITCH

East Bay filmmaker Wade Novy had the nerve to complain that the *Voice* misspelled his name in last month's story on Ephemera Inc. ("Button Moguls Make Points, Poke Fun With Sharp Gags" by Mark Phillips Green). We also mistakenly referred to him as a "retired" filmmaker when, in fact, he's currently writing his first feature film. Sorry, Wade, but as the button says, we just work here. □



Just Like Old Times, Cont'd

Back when Cro-Magnon person roamed the earth, s/he ate raw food outside. That was just one of the nostalgic attractions at the Noe Valley Sidewalk Sale Days Sept. 20-21, when several local retailers sold their wares al fresco. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.

Picnic to Quell Dogfight Over Bird and Court

Some Noe Valley activists are throwing a "Non-Partisan Potluck Picnic" at Douglass Park Oct. 12 to encourage voters to keep Chief Justice Rose Bird *in* and politics *out* of the upcoming elections for state Supreme Court seats.

"Politics must be kept out of the judiciary," said Clipper Street resident Naomi Revlyn, who helped organize the picnic for the Independent Citizens Committee (ICC). "This year, a lot of special interests are turning the Nov. 4 election into a partisan dogfight. It's ridiculous."

The picnic, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at the playground off Douglass Street near 26th, will feature ICC speak-

ers and probably a "surprise guest speaker," whom Revlyn had not confirmed at press time.

Revlyn and other ICC members think Bird has been unfairly targeted for defeat by wealthy corporations because her decisions often support the rights of women, tenants and consumers at the corporations' expense.

"This whole campaign [against Bird's reconfirmation as chief justice] has been financed by big money—banks, real estate and the automobile industry," she said. "They focused people's attention on the death penalty when that isn't what concerns them [the corporations]."

"If they couldn't use the death penalty, they'd find something else," she added.

The current state Supreme Court has overturned the death penalty in all cases it reviewed, to the outrage of many crime victims and their relatives.

But Revlyn says that is not the point. "What we must decide is whether a judge

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco 94114

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity. Mail subscriptions are available at a cost of \$10 per year (\$5 per year for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name and phone number and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editorial: 821-3324

Distribution: 469-0419

Subscriptions: 550-2324

Display Advertising Only:

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Classified Ads: See Page 27

Advertising Deadline for

November 1986 Issue: Oct. 20

Editorial Deadline: Oct. 15

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is fair or not, whether they make the right decision based on current legislation and the data and facts at their disposal," she said. "The current death penalty law is legally flawed. We can't fault the judiciary for that."

For more information about the picnic, call the ICC office at 554-0126. □

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Renovating a Mighty Fortress

By Jeff Kaliss

The Noe Valley Ministry has accomplished much in its nine years under the pastoral guidance of Rev. Carl Smith. "It really has been a miracle," says Deacon Elizabeth Rusk, who points to the growth of the church's worshipping Presbyterian congregation as well as to the Ministry's support for an amazing variety of artistic, healing, activist, and neighborhood groups.

But miracles alone can't stand against the ravages of time on the century-old building itself, located on Sanchez Street near 23rd. On the outside, neither shingles nor gutters are doing their work and water is leaking through. The eaves have been dropping (it's dangerous, not funny) and a protective paint job is needed. On the inside, the city has demanded that the wiring in the sanctuary on the second floor be brought up to code, and the Ministry has to make the lighting more appropriate to the performing and visual artists who often use the space. Bathrooms must be completely refurbished, and the kitchen modernized.

The \$133,000 price tag on all this is the goal of the church's Centennial Revitalization Fund, a money-raising campaign initiated this summer with a target date of 1988 to coincide with the building's hundredth anniversary. The fund has already benefitted from a day of aerobics in July, a concert Sept. 14 by Bobby McFerrin and friends, and an art auction Sept. 28 with performances by Dale Miller and Harriet Schiffer at Rami's Caffe. This month the fundraising continues with a workshop on making Scottish shortbread at Bethany Church Oct. 4 and an acoustic music fest with Miller, Joady Guthrie and J.C. Burris at the Ministry that same evening.

The eclectic nature of the fundraising force reflects the attitude of Carl Smith towards his pastoral duties. Trained at the Pacific School of Religion and a veteran of challenging religious assignments at the Iona Community in Scotland and in East Palo Alto, Smith believes in an "incarnational theology" in which "God is involved in *all* of life." He says he was attracted to the Presbyterian sect in particular because of its progressive stand on social issues and its non-hierarchical structure.

Smith was chosen as pastor of the newly formed Noe Valley Ministry in 1977 following the dissolution of the Lebanon Presbyterian congregation, which had worshipped at the Sanchez Street site for 90 years.

Elizabeth Rusk, who attended Lebanon, recalls that its membership, by the late 1960s, "had dwindled to such a few people that we weren't able to support a minister or a meaningful program." She attributes this to "the change in the community, the change in lifestyles. And this was during the Haight-Ashbury time, when there was a lot of feeling against the organized church." The Lebanon Church, adds Smith, "had a reputation of not being very hospitable."

Hired with special funds from the Presbyterians' national body, Smith was directed to establish a brand new "mission" that would be both cooperative with other churches and responsive to the surrounding community. Toward this end, Smith became part of a "lectionary group" composed of leaders of the neighborhood's various churches. He held coffee klatches with Noe Valley folk, some of whom had been parents of kids attending the nursery school which had been using the Ministry building for several years. And he also held meetings with people involved in drama, music, and the visual and healing arts.



Here is the church, and here is the steeple: just as its countenance dominates Sanchez Street, so does the work within the Noe Valley Ministry enhance and influence our neighborhood. A major renovation effort is under way to restore the nearly hundred-year-old church's structural health. Leading the way are, from left, fundraising chair Mary Ann Seth, pastor Carl Smith, and deacon Elizabeth Rusk.

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

Within two years the Ministry was the site of holistic health sessions, a food program for seniors, occasional exhibits and performances by local talent, and the newly established *Noe Valley Voice* newspaper. These groups did not claim any affiliation with the Presbyterian Church, but were welcomed because of their social or artistic service.

Smith also ministered to the building itself, drawing on funds from the Mayor's Office of Community Development and donations from contractors to partially paint the structure and correct the most serious building code violations. To make the Ministry a more adaptable facility, Smith had the fixed pews removed from the upstairs sanctuary and substituted the use of folding chairs.

Meanwhile, the worshipping congregation itself grew slowly, reflecting the spectrum of age and religious background in the neighborhood. There were a variety of Protestants, some Catholics, a few Jews, and persons of no fixed faith. Smith remembers "discussions about the worship to see what was the common denominator, where there would be the Episcopalians who wanted even more ritual and the Baptists who wanted it even more simple than it was."

Smith's Sunday services were actually "more orthodox than people realized," but he showed himself to be an innovator, incorporating dance and song (including his own guitar-playing) and substituting a "sharing time" for the traditional sermon.

As attendance increased from a handful to several dozen, the congregation was able to select a strong "session" of elders, who function as the church's trustees and business managers, and deacons, who visit the sick and otherwise assist in the church's ministerial outreach.

Noe Valley residents Kit Cameron, who was raised Episcopalian, and Peter Vacarro, a Catholic-turned-"pagan,"

joined the congregation in 1980, impressed that Smith "was getting out and about and was being a pretty cool, hip guy," in Cameron's words. Two years later, the couple asked Smith to marry them at the Ministry. "We liked Carl," says Vacarro, "we liked the fact that we were going to write our own service and that Carl said to us, 'If I'm going to marry you, you're going to have to go through counseling with me.'"

After five weeks of counseling in which "we dragged out the skeletons," Cameron and Vacarro were able to put together a "multi-ethnic, multi-religious" ceremony at the Ministry that included a canopy, candles, an exchange of laurel wreaths instead of rings, and musical performances by their friends.

"Carl was not only open to creative stuff, he really encouraged it," recalls Cameron. "He wanted people to really think about what they were saying." Many other couples have been attracted to the freedom and fair fees at the Ministry, which has also been utilized for memorial services.

Cameron, a painter and graphic artist, became further involved with the church as the second director of the Gallery Sanchez in 1982. The gallery has mounted a variety of exhibits, sometimes with spiritual themes, in the sanctuary space. Although the architecture and multiple uses of the sanctuary make it difficult to show large framed works or sculpture, Cameron has found that "it's a great place to show art, because there are so many people who are coming in for other activities. If they're presented with an art show in the middle of doing something else, they'll look at it."

Larry Kasson, who initiated the Noe Valley Music Series at the Ministry in 1981, points out that the building is more naturally suited to the musical than to the visual arts. In fact, he finds it superior

to most of the clubs and concert halls in the area.

"Because of the nature of the space, there's a feel to it and to the audiences that come there that brings out the best in every performer," says Kasson. "The acoustics are live, due in part to the high ceilings and uncarpeted floors [in the sanctuary], and there's an intimacy that makes for less of a barrier between audience and performer."

These conditions are appreciated by such carefully crafted musicians as singer McFerrin and jazz pianist Jessica Williams (who performs there with trumpeter Tom Peron on Oct. 18).

"I like the Ministry, I like it a lot," McFerrin vocalized to Kasson recently. "If I walk in cold, I come out hot!"

Aside from the above-mentioned activities, the Ministry has in the last five years played host to several theater groups, film and poetry series, children's entertainment, exercise and dance classes, community and activist groups, therapy/support groups, an acoustic music series and an annual Halloween party and haunted house. The building has served as headquarters for a nuclear freeze group and a Central American refugee sanctuary and currently contains offices for Tradeswomen, Kadaka Dances for Kids, and the *Voice*. Mary O'Brien, a deacon in the church, manages the building with the help of three or four office volunteers.

And the congregation has swelled to about 85 official "congregates" and some 200 "followers." In 1984 the Presbytery of San Francisco officially changed the Ministry's status from a "mission" to a "church," and last year Smith was "installed" as pastor in a typically colorful ceremony. Smith now has the help of volunteer Assistant Pastor Hope Raymond and a seminarian intern, who participate in his Sunday morning services and often in the church's Tuesday and Wednesday evening sessions devoted to healing and "spiritual pilgrimage."

Smith points out that his congregation is still too small to come anywhere near supporting the cost of the building's needed repairs and improvements. The congregates do, however, donate their labor at fundraising events, and two of them, Mary Ann Seth and John Wish, have volunteered as co-chairs of the Centennial Revitalization Fund.

Besides the events mentioned above, congregates have proposed a day of babysitting at Christmastime, a grand dance, home dinners, another day of aerobic workouts, and a 5 or 10K run through the neighborhood. Seth and Wish have also distributed attractive brochures and may go door-to-door to further the cause.

How quickly the work progresses "hangs on whether we can get a line of credit for the denomination," Smith points out. He'll also appeal again to the Mayor's Office of Community Development. But funds will have to be substantial enough to support several projects, once an outside scaffolding has been erected.

David Schindler, head of the Ministry's Building Committee, which has prepared a job description and collected bids, notes that the revitalization will proceed as a "historical reconstruction" which "keeps the character of the building," designed by 19th century architect Charles Geddes as a redwood replica of a "Gothic" English country church. Schindler expects that the congregation members themselves will help with the work, and says they've already begun on the trim and preparation for painting.

Building manager O'Brien finds it easy to see the Ministry's maintenance as a unifying goal. "We don't have to agree on a God or a particular direction, but just the right to be able to express oneself," she points out. "And when you think about it, religion isn't all that far away from any other form of expression. It really is a partnership." A call to the Ministry at 282-2317 can get you involved. □

• Women & AIDS •

Continued from Page 1

the Bay Area given by sexologist Clark Taylor that, among other things, show videos on tactful and sensual ways to bring a condom into love-making.

Clark's monthly classes ranging in size from 60 to 150, have at times been as much as 60 percent female. He has also given classes exclusively for women.

But for many women, a condom doesn't provide peace of mind. "Some women don't completely trust what the doctors are telling them is safe sex. They're afraid that a few years down the road they'll find out that saliva transmits the virus or something like that," said psychotherapist Heather Dutton of the San Francisco Women's Institute. Six psychotherapists form the institute, which almost exclusively treats women. Dutton says three-quarters of her clients are single, and many are becoming monogamous in reaction to the AIDS crisis.

The syndrome's long incubation period is another worry, she says, making many fear that they or potential partners unknowingly are walking time-bombs. "I came down with a fever and sore throat recently, and the first thing that occurred to me was AIDS," says Jean, 34, a Noe Valley professional. "I've been in a relationship for five years. But with all this talk about a seven-year incubation period, I think, What was I doing seven years ago?"

Jean says that AIDS fear is also an incentive to stay in her relationship. "I just can't imagine being out there," she says. "And if I were, I certainly wouldn't operate the way I did 10 years ago."

Jean's attitude is not uncommon, according to psychotherapist Marille James King, who treats mainly women. "A lot of women are not willing to have one-night stands anymore," she says. "They are insisting on commitment and long-term relationships."

An associate of King's says she hears of longer courtship periods, up to one year in one patient's case, before women decide to sleep with a man. And King thinks the monogamous relationship's return to popularity, prompted greatly by the AIDS crisis, has actually made her patients happier women.

Grace, a 24-year-old political fundraiser, disagrees. She is sure that "the minute there's a cure for AIDS, people are going to start sleeping around like crazy. Right now," says Grace, "they're hanging onto each other out of fear."

Although Grace and her boyfriend believe in open relationships, they have de-

That moral stigma adds to the stress for women who are afraid they have been exposed to AIDS. Sarah, 31, a video shop employee on Castro Street, believed for a year, until the AIDS antibody test came out, that she had contracted AIDS from her boyfriend. "I felt like a leper, like I was dirty and nasty just for having a boyfriend," she said.

She described the night over two years ago when her boyfriend told her they both might be in danger. "He asked me if I remembered that he had told me he once slept with a man, and I said, 'Yes,'" she recounted. "Then he said, 'Well, that guy is in the hospital now with

the AIDS threat, says Carter. "Women are afraid of being lied to," she says. "If a man says he's not bisexual and hasn't shot up drugs, they don't know whether to believe it."

This mistrust sometimes undermines what could be carefree relationships, she says.

On the positive side, couples are communicating much more at the beginning of a relationship, King believes. "Women are taking control of a situation," she claims. "They ask men to tell their history, how many partners they've had and what diseases they've been exposed to."

She thinks women are more cautious than men partly because of the effect AIDS would have not only on them, but on a child if they became pregnant.

Not everyone is as cautious as King's patients, though. LeeAnn, 22, a university business student interviewed in a Haight Street singles bar, says she thinks the AIDS issue is overblown. "It's almost as likely for me to get AIDS by sleeping with a man as it is for me to get hit by a car crossing the street," she said. "I'm not about to start leading my life according to fears of all kinds of things that probably won't happen."

Dr. Flash Gordon of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic also says the AIDS scare is out of proportion. He is amazed at the number of women coming to the clinic asking about the AIDS antibody test when he thinks they ought to be more concerned about the rash of other diseases going around. "Women ought to be less terrified of AIDS and more concerned about chlamydia," he says.

But Grace and others believe this fear, properly directed, is the only thing that will save lives until an AIDS cure is found. "We can't just go around sharing death," she says. □

This story was originally published in part by Pacific News Service.

Safe Sex Guidelines

Editor's note: The following guidelines were established by Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights and are distributed in publications by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. For more information call the AIDS Information Hotline number, 863-AIDS.

Safe Sex Practices

- Massage, hugging
- Mutual masturbation
- Social kissing (dry)
- Body-to-body rubbing (frottage)
- Voyeurism, exhibitionism, fantasy

Possibly Safe Sex Practices

- French kissing (wet)
- Anal intercourse with condom
- Vaginal intercourse with condom
- Sucking—stop before climax
- Cunnilingus
- Watersports—external only
- (Risk increases with multiple partners)

Unsafe Sex Practices

- Rimming
- Fisting
- Blood contact
- Sharing sex toys or needles
- Semen or urine in mouth
- Anal intercourse without condom
- Vaginal intercourse without condom

cided to remain monogamous only because of their AIDS fear. "My boyfriend's ex-lover is seeing someone whose old lover sleeps around a lot. If there's any overlap in relations there, that woman could have an effect on me. Someone four generations away could affect the rest of my life."

Grace is irritated by the trend to consider monogamy not only as safe sex, but also as righteous. "This whole AIDS thing is playing into the hands of the conservatives," she complained. "They start thinking it is the wrath of God for promiscuity. That's what bugs me."

pneumocystis pneumonia. That means he has AIDS."

"I had always been so careful," she continued. "I was never pregnant and I'd had very few lovers. Then all of a sudden, AIDS was in my bedroom, in my bed, and maybe in my body."

Although Sarah's relationship was on the rocks, the two clung to each other because of their predicament. When the affair ended, Sarah was afraid to go out with other men. "I felt like I was the kiss of death."

Starting a new sexual relationship is harder for many people now because of

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San Francisco
Recycling Program

558-2361

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



• More Cars, Fewer Places to Put Them •

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thority, reports an equally depressing statistic: in San Francisco there are more than 10,000 registered and unregistered vehicles per square mile—the highest of any city in the United States.

Given the scope of the problem, is there any sign the daily parking challenge will become easier? After all, many solutions have been discussed at various neighborhood meetings in recent years.

"We're all frustrated," says Jean Amos, former president of the neighborhood group Friends of Noe Valley. "I'd like to know what they [the city] have planned to deal with parking and whether there are any urban plans about how to solve the problem," Amos said. She'd also like to know what happened to proposals such as diagonal or perpendicular parking on Noe Street.

In answer to Amos' questions: a "Five Year Action Plan for Neighborhood Parking" was completed in April of this year by the Department of City Planning, working with the Parking Authority to study various neighborhoods for their parking shortages and possible solutions. The study identified 10 districts in need of comprehensive planning strategies. First on the priority list is the area dubbed

Inner Clement—Mid-Geary—California between Fourth and Seventh avenues. Though the situation seems horrendous here, the 24th Street—Noe Valley district ranks eighth in priority.

However, solutions may not be implemented in the order of priority because the city tries to take advantage of opportunities as they come up in any of the 10 districts, King explained. Available spaces for large-scale solutions, such as a new parking garage or surface lot, don't present themselves every day, and the worse the need, the more difficult it may be to find property for sale or lease, such as an old service station lot, he said.

King urges Noe Valleons to view the parking need as a citywide rather than just a neighborhood issue. "The city is a city—not a series of isolated neighborhoods," he said. "I don't believe planning for a neighborhood's parking needs should preclude the rest of the city." King, who was born in San Francisco, says he still goes to Swann's Oyster Bar on Polk Street for seafood, gets his hair cut on Ulloa, and eats Italian food at Marcello's Restaurant, 32nd and Taraval—and expects to park in each of these neighborhoods.

He said he doubted that a large multi-



Anyone who thinks the availability of spaces for cars in Noe Valley will improve in the near future is parking upside the wrong tree. Above, a typical day on Noe Street.

PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.

level parking garage would be needed or appropriate for Noe Valley—and it might have the counter effect of drawing in more traffic and creating more parking demand. "I suspect that Noe Valley needs a fairly good-sized lot," larger than the existing city lot off 24th Street between Noe and Castro.

However, King said he knew of only two potential sites in the neighborhood and neither was available at this time. "I've asked every district merchant group to let me know if a space becomes available," King said. "We can't get out of this office [to search for potential sites] as much as we might wish."

Until the city finds a spot for a lot, Noe Valley residents may content themselves with freeing up curb space via the Silver-Pritikin Parking Plan, a system developed by Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, Noe Valley advertising/real estate mogul Robert Pritikin, and DPW to convert unnecessary or obsolete red, white and yellow zones to legal parking places.

By filling out a "Parking Action Request Form," city dwellers can pinpoint existing red zones, such as those around driveways or metered parking spaces, that can be shortened to accommodate today's smaller cars. Red zones around fire hydrants can also be cut back, suggests Bray, whose department processes public requests under this plan. (The forms are available from Carol Ruth Silver's office, 554-5254, or DPW, 558-3371, and should be mailed to the Traffic Division, Department of Public Works, 460 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94102.)

Bray acknowledged that adding individual parking places under the Silver-Pritikin Parking Plan was a slow, piecemeal process, although it potentially could increase legal parking places by six to 10 percent in some neighborhoods.

Another idea that's been batted around a lot, says Bray, is introducing perpendicular or diagonal parking on streets with enough width—and limiting this parking to compact cars if necessary. However, such a proposal would require the support of half of the residents on the affected blocks, he noted.

Signatures for such proposals have been gathered by other neighborhood groups in the past, and by ad hoc parking

committees such as the one that went door-to-door for a perpendicular parking proposal on Potrero Hill. However, no such proposal is now being considered for Noe Valley, Bray said. "City Hall is a big place, with lots of separate offices. Ideas can get lost unless they get to the right department," he added.

Bray urged people with plans for relieving the parking crunch to contact him or his assistant Stanley Chin at DPW's Traffic Division. They'll be happy to supply petition forms.

Neighborhood permit parking, which was first introduced in 1976 in the parking hell of North Beach, is another possibility for Noe Valley—although it would probably be less attractive to merchants and people who work in the Valley than to residents who leave their cars in the neighborhood during the day and take the J-Church streetcar to downtown jobs.

Bray explained that permit parking could only be implemented in neighborhoods with a statistically significant parking problem and where that problem was mostly caused by outsiders. Also, if there are a lot more permit holders than parking spaces in the neighborhood, permits may not provide much relief.

Bray said his department had not received a request for permit parking from Noe Valley and that adopting such a proposal would require signatures representing either 250 dwelling units or 50 percent of affected residents.

Bill Kuhns, current president of Friends of Noe Valley, says his group is not actively exploring any of the aforementioned parking solutions at this time. "We don't even have a parking committee as such," he lamented.

"The primary reason is that we don't have anyone who's taken an interest to get involved. The nature of groups like ours is to serve as a springboard for people with strong motivations." However, Kuhns urged Noe Valley residents to use participation in the Friends as a vehicle to pursue parking solutions. You can reach him at 826-2304.

When all is said and done, the ultimate solution for Noe Valley's parking problem would be for people to use public transportation 100 percent of the time and give up their cars. But then there's Muni to contend with. □

And You Thought Parking Couldn't Get Any Worse

The Noe Valley parking derby got re-fueled last month when the Department of Public Works began a series of neighborhood street repavings, part of a \$1.6 million Street Rehabilitation Project.

The blocks of Duncan and 28th streets—from Noe to Sanchez and Diamond to Douglass—were dug up and repaved, one side at a time, allowing limited access to home garages and causing frenzied car wars within a five-block radius.

DPW spokesman Y.F. Wong says repairs on Duncan and 28th will continue this month, followed by excavation and repaving on Noe from 19th to 20th and Army to 26th; 20th from Church to Sanchez; 21st from Castro to Collingwood; and Collingwood Street from 20th to 21st.

Wong said the facelift was necessary because "the pavement was busted" on all these streets. He estimated that "excavating six inches and putting back eight inches" of repavement would take from five to seven days per side of the block.

Barring setbacks, Wong said, the project, which is contracted to Homer J. Olsen and Francis Construction Inc., should be completed by the end of October. □

Clothing Store Makes Use of Controversial Castro Space

By Denise Minor

When Joseph Ryan and Catherine Armitage found the storefront at 1431 Castro St. for rent this summer, they thought their dream had come true. The couple came to San Francisco hoping to open a clothing store similar to the one they ran for six years in Buffalo, N.Y.

They rented it at the end of July and, after one month and \$10,000 worth of renovations, opened Neo, a spiffy shop catering to an upscale crowd favoring 100 percent cotton and hand-crafted jewelry.

"Believe me, I knew everything that was for rent in this city, and this was just what we wanted—an old-fashioned, spacious storefront," said Ryan. "But most of all, we liked this neighborhood, because it feels so much like a community."

But it wasn't long before customers began asking if the new owners knew the history of the building. A secondhand clothing shop named Look Sharp had been in the same space for five years and was closed in May because the owner, Mark Berger, lacked the necessary second-hand dealer permit.

According to a disgruntled Berger, he was refused the permit by City Hall because the property was zoned residential. "It makes no sense," Berger told the Voice in April. "This shop is not going to be livable. It was obviously meant to be commercial."

Armitage and Ryan say that when they applied for their seller's permit they asked a zoning official what the lot was zoned. They say they were told it was RC1, mixed residential and commercial. But with all the neighborhood inquiries,

they decided to double-check.

Ryan says he called city zoning officials again and was reassured that the lot was RC1, although he refused to say who spoke to him.

But in another planning department office, zoning officer Barry Pearl said the city in July filed a suit against property owner Michael Knysh for renting the storefront out to a business.

"The property is zoned residential," said Pearl, adding that it was "virtually impossible" the code would be changed.

A letter was sent to Knysh Sept. 15 informing him of the suit. Depending on whether or not Knysh fights the city's action, the case could last anywhere from "a couple of months to years," said Pearl.

Knysh was unavailable for comment.

The Catch-22 of the zoning regulation is that the two-story building at 1431 Castro has reached its capacity of dwelling units under other zoning regulations. The space could only be used for storage, parking, or additional living space for the existing apartments, said Pearl.

Meanwhile, Armitage and Ryan are worried about the mixed signals City Hall seems to be sending. But they believe that logic will prevail and the city won't force them out of a building constructed to be a shop on a street with a number of other businesses. "When we opened, I was thinking of naming this the Obvious Storefront," joked Ryan.

But if the new shop is in violation of a zoning code and there is anything that can be done to encourage the city to allow a variance, Ryan thinks the neighborhood will stand behind Neo. "People have come by really concerned," he said. "They don't want to see us get bumed." □

Common Scents

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Matching Up Elders With Households

By Anne Semans

Juan, a 70-year-old Filipino man, was tired of living in a hotel. The atmosphere was growing painfully lonely and his pay as a school traffic guard barely covered the rent. During his search for a more comfortable and affordable living situation, he met Ruth, who set him up with Mary and Levi, an older couple looking for someone to live in the extra room of their Noe Valley home. Now, in exchange for nominal rent, a little help around the house and some company, Juan has a place he can call home.

Juan found Ruth Morales, the coordinator at Options/Home Share, a new program which matches older people who have homes with those who want to share them. The program, funded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, is designed to provide an affordable, healthier and safer housing alternative for elders.

Seeing the program as a step away from traditional housing and care provided for the elderly, Options/Home Share operates according to the individual's expressed needs and desires.

"The efforts to assist the elderly up to this point have been very paternalistic," says Morales. "This is your problem, this is what is best" is a common attitude," she says. Instead, she wants Options/Home Share to "be about self-determination."

The program serves two kinds of people—home providers and home seekers—who fill out applications and are asked detailed questions about their living habits by a Home Share worker. Morales then uses the interview information to help make suitable matches between seekers and providers.

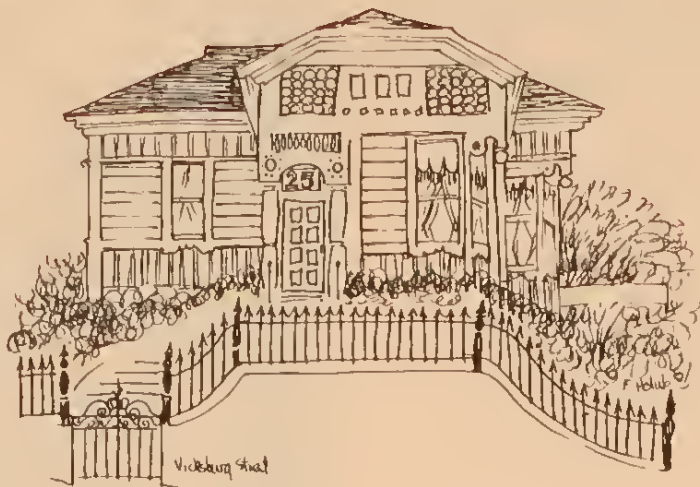


ILLUSTRATION BY FLORENCE HOLUB

She stresses the importance of thoroughness and tact in her interviews, questioning individuals on their attitudes about everything, including race and sexual orientation, "in order to avoid a disastrous, potentially insulting match."

If Morales finds a possible match, she suggests the individuals follow her three-step introductory process.

The provider and seeker first introduce themselves on the telephone and discuss their situations.

If this discussion goes well, the two can arrange to meet in a public place, a coffee shop or maybe a library.

If both are interested after this meeting, the provider can then arrange for the seeker to see her or his home.

Before the final move is made, Morales recommends that the seeker spend a weekend or a few nights for a short trial period to see if the match will work. During this time, either of the parties can change their minds.

On their applications, individuals are asked to specify what type of exchange they're interested in.

Juan negotiated a reduced rent with Mary and Levi in exchange for providing

services (about 10 hours per week and general companionship in the evenings). A provider might also offer free rent and food in exchange for minor services and some meal preparation. If providers need more help, they can offer a salary in addition to room and board. The amount of the salary would depend on the nature of the additional services.

Unfortunately, Morales says the most common situation involves an elderly woman in need of more extensive personal care, but who does without it because she can only afford to pay \$100 per month.

Morales describes one case of an "un-matchable" provider: "They are a couple with a 2-month-old baby. He is a 40-year-old poet who stays home, and she has decided to go back to work. They want a full-time babysitter in exchange for the room. Who can afford this? Yet they expect me to help them."

In contrast, Morales happily recounts a recent success story about a German woman in her 70s who, while living in hostels, approached her every day looking for a home to share.

After exhausting her stay at the San Francisco International Hostel, she

moved to the Moss Beach Hostel, expressing a love of the ocean and sea air.

One day, two gay men who owned their own home in Moss Beach phoned her saying they had an extra room they would like to offer to an older woman. Morales arranged a meeting between the three of them, and the match proved to be a great success. "It's people's generosity and flexibility which make the program successful," she concludes triumphantly.

Options/Home Share gets state funding only for individuals over 60, but as long as one side of the match fulfills the age requirement, providers or seekers may be younger than 60. According to Morales, this poses a problem with the existing funding since 60 of the 500 interviewed this year were under 60.

In addition, the \$100 Options/Home Share receives for each senior over 60 is barely enough to sustain the program. "The state provides funding at such a minimal level, it's insulting," says Morales. "It means we can't really do innovative housing, like Marin's where the program is able to buy and lease housing which is made available for home sharing."

Despite the odds, in the last year Morales matched between 80 and 100 seniors out of the 500 she interviewed.

Of the 80 matches, about half have terminated this year. "This is due mostly to natural causes," Morales says. "Either the home provider requires more care than the sharer can give and other arrangements need to be made, or the sharer simply wants to move on." Statistics from other programs show that two years is the average duration of a home-sharing situation.

Morales urges more home providers to consider sharing their homes since, after only a year of the program's existence, the seekers far outnumber the providers.

For more information, call or visit Options/Home Share, located in the Women's Building at 3542 18th St., or attend an orientation meeting. Call 552-4549 for times and dates. □

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SAN FRANCISCO	2991	3025	34	22.04	WATER
ACCOUNT NUMBER	SERVICE			45.62	UTILITY TAX
476-3720-2	11/13 01/14/87			68.76	SEWER
NAME					CURRENT CHARGE
MR. + MRS. SAN FRANCISCAN				68.76	PREVIOUS BALANCE
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Dear Readers:

I want to take this opportunity to let you know how I feel about two very important issues facing San Franciscans: rising rents and taxation.

I am pleased to have sponsored successful legislation to remove the local tax on utilities from the bills of San Francisco residents for 1987, starting January 1.

The utility tax adds a surcharge to your telephone, gas, electricity and water bill unless the Board of Supervisors annually approves an exemption for residents. Last fall, I voted against the majority of my colleagues who, for the first time in years and at the insistence of the Mayor, imposed the tax on San Franciscans. My recent legislation renews the lost exemption.

The utility tax must be the most unfeeling, obnoxious tax conceived by government. It requires a householder who needs to cook, turn on lights or heat, or use the telephone to pay into the City's coffers in order to provide attractions enjoyed by others, even tourists.

Earlier, I had been among the sponsors of a ballot initiative to repeal the residential utility users tax, which, if approved, would not have taken the surcharge off your utility bills until July of next year. I chose instead to renew the exemption through the Board of Supervisors after talks with the Mayor, who agreed that the tax is not needed for next year and pledged her support for the legislation, so that the people of San Francisco will be free of this improper tax for ALL, not part, of 1987.

I also join the call for vacancy control in San Francisco. I have voted for rent control and vacancy control each time those issues have come before the Board. Without vacancy control, rent control inspires an unscrupulous landlord to evict tenants in order to raise rents. I will support a vacancy control law which gives a fair shake to renters and property owners alike, to stop rising rents from driving out all but the very rich.

WENDY NELDER

Member, Board of Supervisors

Local Witches Preserve a Lost History

By Denise Minor

Witches have gotten a lot of bad press during the last couple of centuries. And with the advent of Halloween, Noe Valley witch Sally Abbott thinks it's a good time for people to re-evaluate their attitudes.

"In our culture, people have a negative view of a witch. She's the hoogeeywoman in nursery tales who scares children," she says. "But a wizard, the term usually associated with a male witch, doesn't carry that negative association. He's thought of as powerful and wise.

"Well, it's time witches were demystified," Abbott maintains. "We need to speak out the truth." According to pagan tradition, a witch is a wise woman who uses the forces of nature to heal, make magic or make art. "The actual meaning of the word witch—from the Celtic word *wicce*—which is healer, wise woman or weaver," Abbott explains.

Abbott, a poet who considers herself a witch, teaches classes on goddess worship in pre-history at U.C. Extension, San Francisco, and at California State in Hayward.

Halloween and witch customs can be traced to an epoch in European history when women were the physical and spiritual healers in a community and when goddesses were more worshipped than gods, she claims.

"These traditions come from a time when women were revered, before the patriarchal revolt," says Abbott. "Today a witch is someone who believes in the goddess and in a female aspect to divinity—and believes she embodies that divinity within herself."

Before the spread of Christianity, Oct. 31—Allhallows Eve—was the most holy day of the year in the pagan Celtic calendar. It was the Celts' New Year's Eve, the night before the Day of the Dead (Nov. 1), when the veil between the spiritual and physical worlds was its thinnest, says Abbott.

Led by witches, the Celts met in burial places to worship Samhain, the lord of the dead, and to commune with ancestral spirits.

The gatherings were not solemn affairs, Abbott notes, but rather joyful revelries with participants often wearing masks and costumes to facilitate their passing back and forth between the two worlds. "The popular dressing-up on Halloween is an out-and-out relic of the old pagan custom," she says.

The Christian missionaries who came later found they could convert many pagans, but they couldn't wipe out their sacred ceremonies. So the festivals were co-opted and incorporated into Catholic ritual, and the Day of the Dead became All Saints' Day.

The pagans' "powerful woman" tradition was not preserved, however, and was substantially weakened during the 17th and 18th centuries when 300,000 women were burned at the stake as witches. "They were bloody, weird trials which changed the culture completely," said Abbott. Many victims were "wise old women who practiced herbal and preventive medicine, what we call today homeopathic medicine," she added.

Abbott says the persecution stemmed from the rise of the industrial bourgeoisie in the 1700s, when witches posed a threat to the income and status of doctors, lawyers and priests.

In the decades that followed, witches learned to conceal their identity. Even today, maintains Abbott, many witches are afraid to reveal their vocation. Until recently, even she was afraid to speak out as a witch.

"A friend of mine in Oakland came out in a news article as a witch and she got a lot of hate calls from radical Chris-



It's time for her fellow practitioners to come out of the broom closet, asserts Noe Valley witch Sally Abbott. She thinks society is long overdue in its understanding and appreciation of the witch's tradition and craft, and that Halloween would be an appropriate time for an attitude adjustment. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI.

tians," she says. "But we need to speak the truth. It's time for me to come out of the closet as a witch."

Changing social attitudes are making it possible for witches to practice their beliefs, central to which is a reverence for the forces of nature.

Rose May Dance, a witch living in the Mission District, explains that she and her colleagues try to harness those forces to reach a goal. "In the working of magic, you use the moon, the tides, the seasons and the stars to attain your desires," Abbott adds that many witches follow solar patterns and celebrate the seasons, particularly at summer and winter solstices and fall and spring equinoxes.

Before casting a spell, Dance says, a witch usually monitors the cycles of the planets, which represent different forces, to determine the optimum hour for weaving her magic.

Swatches of hair, pieces of cloth or other items—representing a person—as well as herbs, which have properties cor-

responding to the planets, are also used to strengthen the spell. For instance, says Dance, in casting a spell to improve communication, a witch could use the forces of Mercury and cinnamon. In making love magic, a witch would call upon the powers of Venus while casting a spell with mints or rose hips.

"Spell work is very playful," says Dance. "I think of it as a challenge, to bend or twist the forces of nature."

Dance and about 20 other Bay Area witches belong to Reclaiming, an organization which holds public discussions and rituals and publishes a newsletter about the powerful craft. Many of the group's members were inspired by a witch named Starhawk, who wrote the book *The Spiral Dance*. Starhawk urges witches to unite and "reclaim" the knowledge and strengths of lost pagan traditions.

Dance and Abbott agree that by celebrating a way of life and a body of knowledge that was suppressed, present-day witches are, in Abbott's words, "reclaiming the legacy of the powerful, wise woman." □

BAGGAGE

By Sally Abbott

When my number had finally come up,
I went to see the witch
About the preparations.

As usual, she dashed my hopes
About being ready.

What, I said. Will I have to take
All this?

And more, she said.

What will you do, child
When the wind whips up at night,
Without your big mammalian coat?

And you will need this cage,
For the scorpion you are trying
To get rid of.

And a leash, for a dog
You might find.

You will need windows of all sorts,
And you must learn to tolerate
Even self-disgust, when you find
The spoon is soldered to your arm.

By the way,
You can drop some things,
But not until they fall away.
Give up the idea of selling them
And consider that the city dump
Is near to overflowing now.

Choose carefully,
For this collage will be
Your most fateful portrait.

But, I said. Does it not
Gall you, all this baggage?
I like to travel light.

Galls me? she said.
Sure, it galls me.
For what do you think I carry
This amber vial?
For gall, my dear.
Try to drink it less and less.

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Novelist's Poignant Record of a Passing Era in Gay Romance

By Larry Beresford

Robert Glück's novel *Jack the Modernist*, which was published last year by Gay Presses of New York, contains many scenes set in and around Noe Valley, 1981. It portrays a failed romance between the narrator, Bob—a Noe Valley poet bearing a close resemblance to Glück—and the Jack of the title.

In the novel Bob meets Jack at a writer's forum at the Noe Valley Ministry, goes to a housewarming party on Noe Street, teaches a writing workshop in Small Press Traffic's old bookstore at 24th and Vicksburg, and drinks cappuccinos in the Cafe Babar at 22nd and Guerrero and in the since-closed Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe on 24th Street.

Glück has characters named Denise and Bruce, based on his friends Denise Kastan of Small Press Traffic and poet Bruce Boone—both of whom live in Noe Valley. Also appearing in the novel are Glück's mother and his dog Lily. In fact, the book is full of real people's names, and details from real life.

"Why do I use real names? It's all I know about," Glück explained in a recent interview over coffee at the Courtyard Cafe. "Other writers make up fictions and fictional characters. I create fiction in different ways," Glück said. "I don't see the point of making people up. My project has been to understand the people I know—like a scientist finding a fossil femur. I think anyone's life is like that femur—from that life you can put together a whole society and give it scale."

The naming also seems to offer some security in the face of modern alienation. It helps us know who and where we are, the novel implies. In one scene Bob gives 88 metaphorical names to his lover's sex organ. In another, imagining his mother's advice, he makes a written list of all the things that are troubling him. They range from Jack's reticence and losing face to nuclear catastrophe, war in the Middle East and resurgence of the Nazis.

Kitschy details of popular culture also carry a lot of humor and irony, as in a lengthy description of a Mickey Mouse cartoon, conversations about the horror film *An American Werewolf in London*, and a hilarious but horrifying tale Bob's mother tells about her youth. Glück's naming and descriptions of the small details of life also play with our understanding of how we perceive "real life."

An example of this narrative play is in one of the many scenes in the novel taking place in a kitchen. Jack tosses Bob's dog Lily a bit of muffin, then

"shows her his empty hands saying *It's the international sign for no more muffins.*" In another: "'Are you ready yet?' I asked the cake. 'In about five minutes,' it replied."

The technique has the effect of a box within a box within a box. Bob tells his story using both "real" and imagined letters and phone calls, and an allegory with personified characters named Lechery, Lust and Pride. Late in the book Bob shows Jack an early draft of the novel. "Jack wanted me to change his name. 'But Jack, none of the other characters have different names,'" Bob replies. However, they agree on the pseudonym Jack.

"What is a 'real event' if we understand real events through the filters of our memory, language or culture?" Glück asked. "I wanted to bring this into question in the novel, to do as complete a job as I could of acknowledging the fictions we all create." Everything is unreliable in *Jack*, even the narrator's perception and story-telling.

"This romance [between Bob and Jack] provided me with an opportunity to explore the unreliability of perception, because in romance there is so much questioning of who you are, of who the other person is, as well as a lot of paranoia. You start loading everything that happens with deep meaning."

Jack the Modernist also contains graphic descriptions of gay sex and a scene at a gay bathhouse—all filtered through the narrator's relentless self-analysis and brooding over the imminent break-up with Jack. Among the many regrets and losses in the book—the failed romance, the death of a woman's son, the reminders of nuclear holocaust—is one accidental resonance that comes from the passing of an era of gay promiscuity and the tremendous changes AIDS has forced in the lifestyle of San Francisco's gay community since 1981.

"*Jack the Modernist* is set in 1981," Glück states in a brief note at the beginning of the book. "Before the onset of the AIDS epidemic, I would have gone (did go) to the baths and liberally exchange bodily fluids; now I don't."

The author now says he had intended to make another personal revelation in *Jack the Modernist*.

"As long as I was taking such pains at self-disclosure in the novel, I thought why not say how much money I earn? You can never get anyone to talk about their income. So I did, but all of the people who read the first draft said to take it out, because my salary would change."

"Actually, my salary didn't change, but



The Acme may have spun its last mimosa, but it lives on—along with neighborhood vignettes, faces, regrets and a challenging use of narrative—in poet Robert Glück's *Jack the Modernist*. Glück set his biographical novel in 1981 Noe Valley, B.A. (Before AIDS). PHOTO BY TINA WENDT-ABRAMSON

the sex has changed. The novel provides an unplanned view of an historical period that came to an end—gay life in San Francisco before AIDS."

In addition to teaching a writing class at Small Press Traffic's new location at 24th and Guerrero, Glück is also assistant director of the Poetry Center at San Francisco State University. His other books include *Family Poems*, *Elements of a Coffee Service* and *La Fontaine*, co-authored with Bruce Boone. A new book of Glück's poems and short prose pieces will be out soon. *Jack the Modernist* can be found locally at Small Press Traffic and Cover to Cover Booksellers. □

The Acme of Glück's Book

The following excerpts are from Robert Glück's most recent novel, *Jack the Modernist* (Gay Presses of New York, 1985), which takes place in the Noe Valley of 1981. In the first passage, the narrator, Bob, has a cappuccino at the now-defunct Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe with his friend Phyllis, whose son Peter was just murdered. Although the Acme, a 24th Street landmark for well over a

Continued on Page 10

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A WAY-OUT TALE OF A FAR-OUT MONSTER



During a brief lull in the March monsoons, the headlights of an adventurous night-driver peered across the shiny pavement at Sanchez and Elizabeth Streets. Is it safe?
PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.

The Acme of Glück's Book

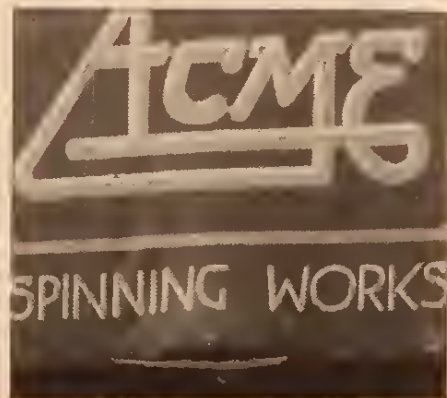
Continued from Page 9

decade, was the restaurant everyone loved to hate. Glück later expressed concern that his comments about the Acme might seem too harsh.

In the second passage, Bob and Phyllis have left the Acme after talking for a couple of hours, and the weather on 24th Street has changed. —Larry Beresford

During July Phyllis stayed with her other son in San Diego. In August she returned, and after the Saturday workshop we met for coffee in a cafe on 24th St. that I always disliked. The food wasn't bad, the coffee was good, so it must have been—as the classical music d.j.s say—the ambience. I'll describe the place to you just to pause a moment before a difficult scene. They had remodeled; now it was upwardly mobile, a large dim room: white walls, blue molding and ceiling, blue and white plastic tablecloths that mimed the Jacquard check and lots of verathaned knotty-pine paneling. Before it had been hippyish with a dusty jungle of unhappy plants and loud music. The music remained, the sound system was still mostly backbeat and behind it a baby still cried in listless continuum. The new colors failed for the same reason as the plants—no daylight rescued them from being inert chemicals, so the landscape mirrored my story's emotional devastation like the blasted oaks of Nineteenth Century Lit. The food was good but sad; I imagined the meat retained some of the mechanical brutality that brought it to this pass. It was just the Acme—not Andy's where you could have fun, or Hopwell's where you could be happy.

I bade the umuranths a mental adieu. When we entered the Acme it was sunny. A salty 4:30 wind had come up, dark and bright. A pending rain gave everyone in the street a conspiratorial feeling that registered as tremulous sexuality. We opened our eyes wider, quickened our awareness. Phyllis and I walked down 24th to her bus stop at Dolores just as the bus swung over and folded its yellow doors. It came faster than we thought. I embraced Phyllis and kissed her on the mouth. The kiss surprised us. I think she held out her cheek. Drawing back, I looked at Phyllis's lips where my lips had been and then at her eyes. They were lowered, bashful or embarrassed, but later I realized that she was just looking at my mouth where her lips had been and if she glanced at my face I also would have appeared bashful, eyes lowered. My kiss was for Peter as much as Phyllis. It struck me as important that we looked at each other's lips like mirrors although I can't say why. Maybe it was that our surprise showed in precisely the same gesture and for an instant we spilled into each other. Phyllis climbed into the bus which immediately lumbered away down 24th St. □



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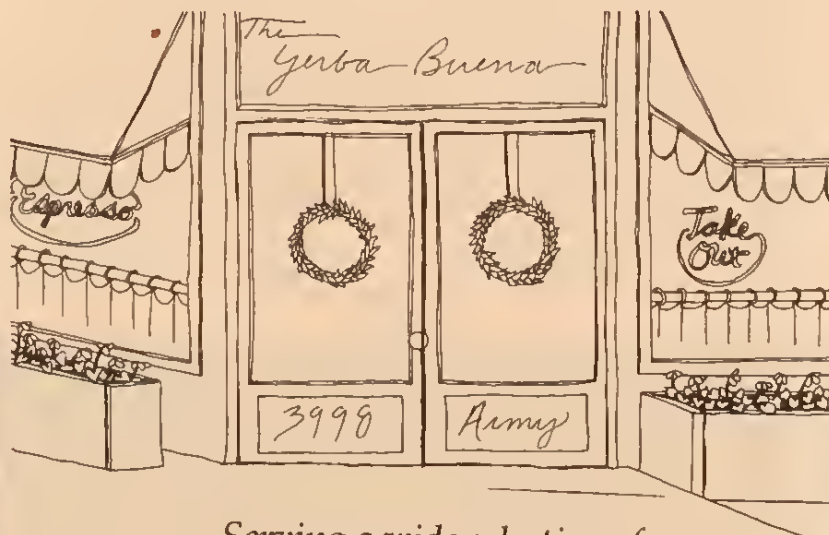
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En Garde, LaRouche!

Do you know what the LaRouche initiative is? A *San Francisco Examiner* and KRON-TV statewide poll revealed last month that about 50 percent of Californians hadn't heard of or were undecided about Proposition 64, a controversial ballot measure drafted by followers of political extremist Lyndon LaRouche.

Between now and Nov. 4, opponents hope to turn those "undecideds" into "no" votes against an initiative that would redefine AIDS and the suspected presence of AIDS as casually contagious conditions.

Towards that end, anti-LaRouche organizers are launching a massive educational, advertising and voter registration campaign, which will cost as much as \$3 million, according to Chris Whitney of the San Francisco Community AIDS Network (CAN).

Two major fundraising events in October include "Host a Party" weekend Oct. 2-5 and a Chez Panisse buffet in Berkeley Oct. 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. Buffet tickets are \$100 each.

For details on how to host a fundraising party in your home or volunteer your time to the campaign, contact San Francisco CAN at 130 Church St. or call 621-1145.

Haunted Helping

What makes the neighborhood's annual Halloween haunted house even scarier this year is that, at press time, nobody knew exactly where it would be (or whether it would be). Organizers were having trouble raising funds to cover insurance costs at James Lick Middle School, where the festivities were to be held (see story, page 1). What is known is that volunteers are needed to help the kids with refreshments, entertainment, set-up and clean-up. Give a shriek to project organizer Marilyn Lucas at 285-6265.

Local Blood

In light of the current blood shortage in San Francisco, Noe Valley residents are urged to support the neighborhood's first community blood drive, sponsored by Bethany Methodist Church and the Noe Valley Ministry in conjunction with Irwin Memorial Blood Bank.

Blood collected at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be credited to an Irwin Memorial Blood Bank account for the specific use of Noe Valley residents. Credits accumulated during the drive will also entitle neighborhood residents to a discount on certain blood transfusions.

Donors are reminded to bring a legal form of identification with them and call

SHORT TAKES



These kids from Yoey Preschool are trying to scare you into coming to their Haunted House and Halloween party Friday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the school, 325 Sanchez St. If you're the least bit leery, call 626-9666 for the line-up of costume contests, food, games, and other tricks and treats. PHOTO BY IRENE KANE.

Irwin Memorial at 567-6400 if they are on any special medications.

Two Church Bazaars

Historically, the church has been an important locus of celebration in the community, and Noe Valley is no exception. The annual festival of St. Paul's Parish, headquartered at 29th and Church streets, happens this weekend, Oct. 3-5, with food, prizes and games under the theme "Lady Liberty."

On Oct. 25 Bethany Methodist Church, at Sanchez and Clipper streets, hosts a bazaar with baked goods, gifts, plants, white elephant items and holiday decorations, as well as a lunch from noon to 2 p.m. Call St. Paul's at 648-7538 and Bethany at 647-8393 for more information.

Rent Initiative Boost

Small businesspeople are upset about commercial rent increases, and they're not just whistling in the dark. Instead, they're holding a concert Oct. 5 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Cesar's Latin Palace to benefit the Commercial Rent Arbitration Initiative, intended for next month's ballot.

The initiative, which would allow small businesses to arbitrate unjustifiable or unreasonable rent increases, was denied normal ballot access due to a technicality, and the denial is being appealed to the state Supreme Court.

The benefit concert will feature the Latin All Stars and guests, and you can find Cesar's at 3140 Mission St. Tickets may be purchased in the Mission at Discoteca Havana, Discolandia, Musica Latina, Libreria Mexico and the American Music Store. Call 647-5995 or 641-9269 for further notices.

Bookmark Contest

For the past three years, Noe Valley kids ages 6 to 13 have designed imaginative bookmarks, and the best have been chosen for professional reproduction and use throughout the San Francisco Public Library system. This year's contest, already in progress, runs through Oct. 15, so kids should contact the Children's Room at the Main Library or the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St. (285-2788) for bookmark dimensions. Awards will be presented at the branch during the "Reach for a Book" week, Nov. 17-23.

Free Tax Class

It's not too early to think about taxes when it could save you bucks. Think about tax practitioner Jan Zobel's "Basic Income Tax Information" course, offered free for nine weeks at the Castro/Valencia Community College Center beginning Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Zobel will cover small business taxes, allowable tax deductions, and rental

property expenses, and will register participants at the first class session. The center is located at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St., and you can find out more from 648-5866 or 558-9987.

Fighting Conflict

Who ya gonna call when some thoughtless neighbor is blaring heavy metal at midnight or your roommate keeps making holes in your cleaning deposit? Probably Community Boards, which has been using conflict resolution techniques to solve thousands of such disputes over the last 10 years.

Noe Valley's own branch of the organization recently moved from Church Street to 120 27th St. near Guerrero, and will hold an open house Oct. 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Other "Decade of Peacemaking" celebrations include a luau and talent show at 100 Leland Ave. (off Bayshore, near the Cow Palace) on Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Neighborhood residents are also invited to attend a free training session to improve communication and conflict resolution skills on Oct. 14, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call the 27th Street branch at 821-2470 or the main office at 552-1250 for more info.

Women's Days

October 24 is this year's "Time Off for Women" day, in which women across the country and the world will take time from office and factory work, nursing, mothering, cleaning, shopping, planting and milking to pressure governments to implement the United Nations' decision to count all women's work, waged and unwaged, in the gross national product of every country.

Locally, Time Off is being organized by the International Wages for Housework Campaign, which is establishing a Women's Peace Camp at Civic Center Plaza for Time Off day. Call 558-9628 for camp protocol.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Woman to Woman Campaign (aka the Campaign to Support the Women's Associations of Nicaragua and El Salvador) will present a report and slideshow on Oct. 16 about its recent 10-day visit to Nicaragua. The presentation starts at 7:30 p.m. at Dolores Street Baptist Church, 15th and Dolores streets.

Also, on the evening of Oct. 26, Woman to Woman will lead a community canvass to raise funds for childcare in Nicaragua and to rebuild centers destroyed by the U.S.-backed Contras there. Call 652-4400, ext. 419, about these events.

Continued on Page 12

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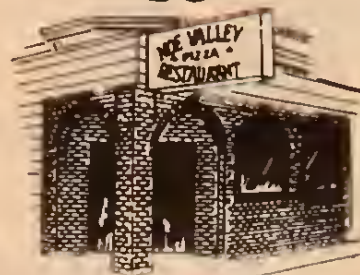
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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 11

Support for Seniors

PATHWAYS is a new program funded by the police department and corporate sponsors to connect seniors with students who can help them do errands, plan meals, complete household chores, translate, and create fundraisers. Locally, PATHWAYS operates out of Centro de Latino, 180 Fair Oaks St., and Mission Dolores, 1855 15th St. Seniors who'd like to know more should call David Park at 863-2524.

And elders in need of emotional support in the form of calls and visits should contact San Francisco Suicide Prevention at 752-3778, any time of day or night. The

group points out that 25% of all suicides in the city are committed by people over the age of 60, which is why it's established a special Geriatric Outreach Program. Those who can volunteer to support the program should call 752-4866 during regular business hours.

Reward in Murder Case

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has authorized a \$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the killing of Michael Berns, 29, on Saturday, Aug. 16, at 2 a.m. on the street at 16th and Dolores.

"The victim was accosted by two Latin males in their twenties in an apparent robbery attempt, according to witnesses," the mayor said. "A scuffle ensued and one suspect pulled a handgun and shot and killed Berns." The suspects were

then seen leaving the scene in a 1970-72 Chevy Caprice or Impala, described as gold in color.

Berns was an employee of the Development Department of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

"The police still need help in solving this heinous crime," the mayor said.

"They are asking anyone who may have been in the vicinity of 16th and Dolores on Aug. 16 to come forward with any information surrounding this crime."

Persons with information are asked to call Inspector Michael Mullane or Inspector Arthur Gerrans at 553-1145.

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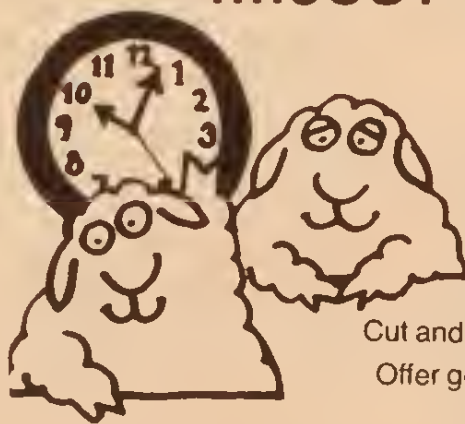
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Tarot: History & Healing in 78 Arcane Images

By Steve Steinberg

When most of us hear the word tarot, we envisage something mysterious, something out of the occult: strange cards painted with mystical symbols from another world. Or we think of carnivals and fortune tellers: gypsies who read palms or who with a flick of a card tell us what the future holds. But for Mary Greer, tarot is not black magic or a sleight of hand, but rather a very personal instrument, a life system for growth and self-understanding.



Greer, a Noe Valley resident, has been practicing, studying, and teaching tarot for the past 18 years. She views tarot as a "folk psychology" that, along with such things as witchcraft and shamanism, provided healing and therapy for people long before the advent of modern psychoanalysis or Gestalt. Even today, she maintains, the lavishly illustrated cards offer compelling images to help individuals clarify issues and problems in their lives. Those images have been compared to ink blot tests in the way they enable people to articulate feelings. "The images are very powerful," says Greer.

Greer divides tarot into two forms: the traditional fortune-telling variety and the more modern, counseling use of the art. She has found "predictive" tarot, as she calls the art of gleaning the future, far too "casual" an experience to satisfy her. She says using the cards to try to ascertain the future is a good way for a novice to learn about tarot, but eventually a practitioner wants a more profound connection with the cards.



Greer has achieved a greater intensity with the cards by having them function as a counseling tool. The cards probe a person's needs and drives, often opening new possibilities. Many times the people who come to Greer for a session are stuck in a fixed pattern of behavior, unable to see any options.

"One of the nice things about the cards is that they throw out all these other perspectives and ways of seeing things," she says. "Tarot often will shake you out of a normal way of seeing yourself."

The cards work through symbols, many derived from Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Sumerian myths. Dealt in spreads based on a person's birthday, for instance, the cards represent such things as wisdom, spiritual awakening, confusion and transformation. The reactions they elicit are very individual, even though the message in the cards can have a general application. "I'm really happy when a person sees something I didn't see," says Greer.

Tarot as a form of counseling has only been in use for the past 10 to 15 years. Tarot as a means of divining fate, on the other hand, goes back centuries. Greer sees divination as "an urge or a need that all cultures have." It is not so much a means of telling individual fortunes as it is a way of discovering the will of the

gods, or of fate, and harmonizing oneself with that will. All games of chance had their origin in divination.

Greer believes that a genuine psychic ability can manifest itself in tarot readings, particularly during a predictive session. Although she says she is not a "natural" psychic, Greer admits to having experienced psychic sensations on occasion while conducting readings. She tries, however, to keep psychic elements separate from other therapeutic forces at work. She feels that everyone has some psychic ability, but that it's usually left unnurtured or suppressed in childhood.

No one knows for sure how tarot originated. Various theories link it to ancient, mysterious cults and rites. Tarot has been said to have been used by Egyptian priests in the time of the pyramids. It is linked to the Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical doctrine. It has also been identified with the Hindu and Celtic religions. The word tarot may have roots in various Sanskrit, Egyptian, Arabic, Chinese and Hebrew words relating to religion or philosophy—as in the Hebrew word Torah, meaning divine law, used as the name of the first five books of the Old Testament.



In one fascinating theory, tarot originated in Fez, Morocco, in the 11th century. There a group of philosophers created the cards as a means of safeguarding the wisdom of the ages. Books, they feared, could easily be destroyed, but if they could preserve their collective knowledge through vice, which never dies, they would be assured of its survival. Hence they inscribed the world's wisdom on a deck of cards.

Indeed, early tarot decks in Europe were used for gambling, and the development of tarot can be traced in part through edicts against the playing of card games. The cards first appeared in Europe in the 14th century and have subsequently undergone many changes in appearance. Certain characteristics have remained constant, however. Tarot decks consist of 78 cards, divided into what are known as the major and minor arcana.

The cards of the major arcana symbolize certain abiding features of human existence: comprehension, intuition, lust, love, self-discipline, ambition. The minor arcana developed into today's playing cards and is subdivided into four suits: cups (hearts), swords (spades), coins or pentacles (diamonds), and wands (clubs). The minor arcana cards also represent aspects of the human psyche—the emotions, the intellect, creativity, and material values.



Greer believes that tarot has achieved popularity over the centuries because it communicates in "the universal language of symbolism," which in turn plays on man's subconscious and intuitive nature.

Greer came to tarot through a childhood and adolescence spent searching for magic and hidden meaning. She always



Theories as to the origins of tarot are as diverse as the compelling images on the cards themselves. Mary Greer, above, a Noe Valley tarot reader and scholar, uses the cards for their therapeutic as well as prognosticative value. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

believed that someday she would find an explanation for the sense of wonder she felt for the world. Then while in college in Florida, at a time when most people have put away their youthful fancies about magic and the like, Greer stumbled on a metaphysical bookstore in Tampa. At the shop she found resources that would set the tone of her life. She also discovered a deck of tarot cards. The visual quality of the cards fascinated her. They were "so colorful, and they [told] stories."



Intrigued by tarot, Greer became almost an immediate initiate. She promised herself that someday she would teach tarot and write a book about it. She spent the next eight years gathering information and studying the ancient art.

Then in the mid-1970s, after the breakup of her first marriage, she organized her first tarot class in Orlando, Florida. The class was not only a success but also "coalesced" all of her knowledge and feeling about the subject. Resolved to teach again, Greer moved to San Francisco and found work as a teacher and administrator at New College of California.

Greer, who has an M.A. in English literature, has worked at New College for 10 years now. She has structured the study of tarot into academic classes that explore the whole nature of symbolism in our society. She has also taught

women's studies and basic skills classes. Although she works as a tarot counselor, she considers herself primarily a teacher—but in a very specific sense: "I'm trying to teach people how to empower themselves."

Greer has also succeeded in writing the book she always wanted to write about tarot. Entitled *Tarot for Yourself—A Workbook for Personal Transformation*, the book uses journal techniques to promote self-understanding against a background of tarot. Published in 1984, the book is in its fourth printing and has sold some 20,000 copies.

Greer is now working on a new book, this one about the origins of tarot and the use of divination in past cultures. An exuberant redhead, she lives with her second husband, publisher and photographer Ed Buryn, and their 5-year-old daughter, Casimira, in a rustic Noe Valley house. Tarot continues to be the framework on which she structures her life. It is a fundamental reference, which she terms her "personal pigeon-holing memory system." She remains convinced that a mystical, medieval art can continue to exercise a hold on people even in the latter half of the 20th century.

"As long as people are interested in looking at themselves, tarot or something very much like it will exist." □





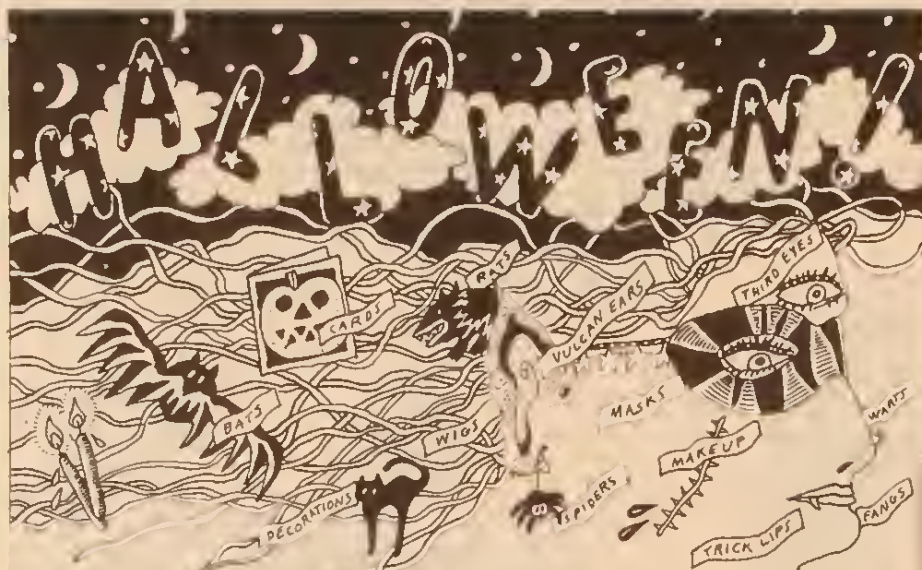
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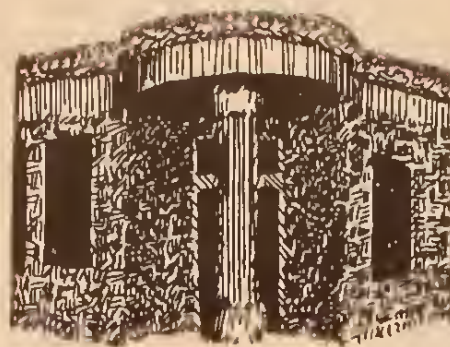
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The Musical Mellowing of Dale Miller

By Jeff Kaliss

Fans of the Sunday evening acoustic music series at the Noe Valley Ministry have occasionally been treated to the stylings of Dale Miller, guitarist, uke-picker, composer, co-producer of the series and manager of 24th Street's Noe Valley Music store. These fans have discovered what listeners to Miller's albums have known for years: that Miller is a finger-picking virtuoso who draws on brilliant technique and a broad knowledge of folk, pop, and classical traditions to paint a portfolio full of musical moods and images.

A portrait of the artist himself reveals a lean, clean-shaven, quick-spoken man in his early 40s, as eager to talk about the past as the present. Twenty-three years younger and bearded, Miller began playing guitar at the New Mexico Military Institute in 1963, when the commercial folk tide (carrying the Kingston Trio, Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul & Mary, et al) was cresting.

While he became something of a "Dylan clone," Miller also fell under the spell of acoustic guitarist John Fahey, who had begun recording his fanciful compositions on the Takoma label in 1959.

"He became an early role model for me," says Miller, "because he was the first guy to take blues techniques and solo guitar techniques and turn them into a new style."

For his last two years of college, Miller transferred to the University of Texas, where he found more grist for his guitar in the company of folk and folk-influenced performers. "[Guitarists] Mance Lipscomb and Lightnin' Hopkins were both semi-locals, and they played in Austin every four to six weeks," recalls Miller, and both Janis Joplin and singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker were trying out their chops on the Austin college kids.

But it was a two-year stint with the Peace Corps that really allowed Miller to commune with his guitar. Stationed in a village in Peru, he would retreat to his bamboo shack and play to his heart's content for four hours every night. In the process, he picked up a handful of Peruvian folk tunes which remain in his repertoire.

Back in the States, Miller took music courses at George Washington University (in the District of Columbia) and at the University of Utah to develop a theoretical underpinning to his explorations. In Utah he made the acquaintance of Bruce Phillips (who later became Miller's roommate and still later became known to folkies as U. Utah Phillips) and of Stefan Grossman, a recording guitarist who was visiting from Italy.

Miller also formed a musical and romantic duo with Shelley Ralston. After they'd saved enough from concertizing and odd jobs around Salt Lake City, the pair took off for a European and North African adventure.

Their trip taught them much about the magical power of music. From several weeks of performing with the Parisian Traditional Music Society, they managed to leave the city with more money than they'd arrived with. At the Algerian border checkpoint, before proceeding to Tunisia, they avoided having to buy additional travel insurance by playing a 2 to 6 a.m. concert for the border guards. And in Italy, where Stefan Grossman was in the process of setting up the legendary Kicking Mule Records, Miller laid down several ragtime tracks in Grossman's studio.

The singing and strumming travelers returned to a relatively quiet life at Salt Lake, Ralston waitressing and Miller teaching guitar to bolster their performing income. Miller was a bit surprised when Kicking Mule's *Contemporary Ragtime Guitar* compilation showed up in the record stores featuring two tracks by Miller



From solitary pickings in a Peruvian shack to a command performance for Algerian border guards, guitar virtuoso Dale Miller has let his fingers do the talking. Shown above in the Noe Valley Music store he manages, Miller will be pulling some strings on Oct. 4 in a benefit at the Noe Valley Ministry. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

himself, and even more surprised when the album proved a top-seller.

After moving with Ralston to San Francisco, Miller got in touch with Ed Denson, a former partner of Fahey's who had hooked up with Grossman, and recorded his first solo album, *Fingerpicking Rags and Other Delights*, for Kicking Mule. A grab bag of Bach, Beatles, blues, jazz standards and originals, the record sold over 10,000 copies and was widely and favorably received by critics.

A reviewer of *Delights* in the *Victory Music Folk & Jazz Review* stated, "Miller is one of the finest contemporary pickers that I have heard on record. His simple way of conveying a song belies the hours of practice to develop the dynamic, the clean technique, much less the interpretation of each selection."

Miller's next album, *Guitarist's Choice*, was similarly constituted and similarly received. "Miller's short takes," wrote one reviewer, "are little gems of style and understatement. He takes standards and Beatles ballads, Tatum and Thelonious Monk, a wee handful of folk tunes, and more and explores each one in two minutes or less, with the kind of assurance of a million-mile pilot at the controls of a jet."

Between 1974, when *Delights* came out, and 1978, when the all-originals *Fingers Don't Fail Me Now* was released by Kicking Mule, Miller toured Canada, Europe, and extensively throughout the States, appearing at "colleges, when I was lucky, coffeehouses, occasionally bars (which I didn't like very much) and festivals when I was really lucky." Al-

though he lived briefly in Noe Valley, Miller recalls that "there was about a year and a half when I didn't even have an apartment." And, he admits, "That's what killed Shelley's and my relationship."

By 1978 Miller found his style of music "easing out" of the public consciousness, although the explorations of guitarist Will Ackerman on the newly-founded Windham Hill label were evocative of Fahey. Miller invited the then-unknown Ackerman and Alex de Grassi to tour with him, only to discover that his companions and their label were becoming household words just a few months later. "Their music was real accessible," explains Miller. "And another thing about Will is, he knows how to package... he was smart enough to get it called 'jazz.'"

With a long climb to modest cult status behind him, Miller found that the Windham Hill avalanche "was hurting me psychologically." He cut back on his touring, and between 1980 and 1983 he drove a cab around San Francisco and "got real fanatical into bike riding." He also met Terry Helbush, a successful immigration attorney who now lives with him in Berkeley. *Wild Over Me*, another mix of originals and standards, was released in 1983 on Rio Vista (a "vanity press" label) to "reasonably good" critical reaction.

Miller also put in time behind the counter of the Acoustic Music store on Haight Street, where he worked with Doug Roomian. Early in 1984, Miller and Roomian decided to go into partnership with guitarist Larry Walker at the Noe Valley Music store, a general music

emporium which had opened on 24th Street in 1979.

In his 2½ years as a small businessman, Miller has managed to achieve a sort of harmony between the various parts of his life. As store manager, he's focused on developing an inventory of stringed instruments, with associated music and accessories. He occasionally writes technical articles for *Frets!* magazine and teaches about a dozen students, who "tend to be yuppies." Miller notes that a lot of these students "are getting to a level of financial success where they're saying, 'I always wanted to play guitar like that style of stuff I heard in college and I never got around to it. Maybe now's the time.'"

His own continuing musical education includes jamming with his customers. In recent years Miller has mastered the "bottleneck" technique, used in Mississippi Delta blues, which involves sliding a glass cylinder over the guitar strings. He finds the Delta music to be "very earthy, primitive, and real bizarre. They play with a slide and play notes that are not on the traditional Western scales." Miller has also been plucking an eight-string ukelele which he picked up in Hawaii.

A couple of years ago Miller began booking some of his acoustic acquaintances, including John Fahey and U. Utah Phillips, into the Noe Valley Ministry, which he considers "a beautiful hall." Upcoming concerts include Rambling Jack Elliott in November and the return of Fahey at Christmastime.

Miller himself will appear at the Ministry Oct. 4, with singer-songwriter Joady Guthrie and blues harmonica player J.C. Burris, in a benefit concert for the Ministry's Centennial Revitalization Fund. On Oct. 10, Miller gigs with slide wizard Roy Rogers at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley, an event sponsored by the Noe Valley Music store.

When not gigging, jamming, booking, or selling these days, Miller is content to sit back and reflect on the pleasures of the neighborhood which he pictures so prettily in "Noe Valley Sunday," the opening track on his third solo album. He realizes that, like the neighborhood, he has changed with time. "Fifteen years ago I thought I knew what was going on," he muses. "Things are so diffuse now that I realize I don't know what's going on." He sighs, and adds, "But it's okay with me." □



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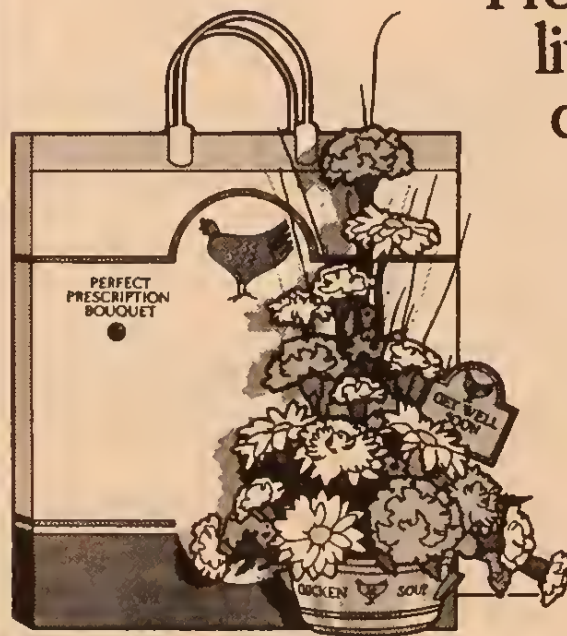
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Four Flips Make Cabaret With Wit and A Cappella

By Gayle Passarelli

The theater is dark. Four singers enter, garbed in monks' robes, holding candles. They chant, "Kyrie eleison." Is this what the audience paid for? Religious cabaret?

Two of the singers kneel. The key changes and the chant becomes too familiar, a kind of liturgical Muzak. "Just like me, they long to be, close to you." Black-out. Lord have mercy. The audience howls.

"We want to have the audience looking at their tickets halfway through and saying, 'Am I in the right place?'" said 21-year-old Kirk Livingston, tenor for the a cappella quartet called The Flips.

Evidently, their surprise tactics work. In the 1985 Cabaret Gold Awards show held earlier this year, The Flips placed second in the category of Most Outstanding Musical Group, just behind the popular Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra. Not bad for a group who sang together less than one year and performed publicly only three times before its Gold Awards nomination. Those performances occurred at Aardvark Parties' open-mike nights for cabaret artists at a nightclub on Nob Hill.

While many cabaret vocal groups rehash Stephen Sondheim, The Flips write most of their own material, from "A Spy for the Moral Majority," "Romance in My Pants," and "Vodka (I drank my brains so blue)" to "Pretty Silly Ditty," whose words are just that. Most songs reflect a '50s doo-wop style.

Each supports a scene, or perhaps it's the other way around. In "Spy," the Flips stalk around the stage wearing dark glasses while fog spills from buckets of dry ice. Whenever a prop, even a tambourine, is introduced, it's used—often with hilarious results.

Livingston shares a commitment to the theatricality of the act with his fellow Flips, bass Kevin Carter, 23, soprano Patti Lesser, 28, and alto Shanna Strassberg, 24. Lesser and Strassberg have lived in Noe Valley for almost a year.

"We create a new category," said Livingston. "We're very theater, we're cabaret. We can be thought of as just music, but then we've done things where we've set up whole routines, centered around songs to where it seems like it's just a comedy act and we happen to sing in the middle of it."

But The Flips aren't all histrionics. When, after several amusing attempts, they sing their arrangement of "Since I Fell for You," the vocals are as luscious and classy as a chocolate torte at Sunday brunch.

In their monogrammed bowling and gas station shirts, The Flips don't want to become an acquired taste, however. The false start, a trademark, is a deliberate device to relax the audience and, at the same time, keep them guessing.

"We started that at the Aardvark Parties," said Carter. "The first time we'd start the wrong song by accident, the second time we'd go up and sing this really bizarre song that lasted about 15 seconds and leave."

"And then we'd come back on stage right away because we forgot our coats," Lesser added.

But those oversized tuxedo jackets, emphasizing what Carter calls "the dulcet tones of The Flips," were once replaced by more extravagant trappings. Steve Silver, producer of "Beach Blanket Babylon," first saw the quartet last fall at an Aardvark Party and asked them to perform at "Come to the Cabaret," a benefit for the Cabaret Gold Awards held at



Barbershop crooners they ain't, but not for want of pipes. The Flips are bending the unwritten rules of cabaret with their a cappella ingenuity and, in the process, staking their turf in San Francisco's nightlife. From left: Kirk Livingston, Patti Lesser, Shanna Strassberg and Kevin Carter.

Silver's Club Fugazi in San Francisco.

"Each one of us was so unique and so different in our approach with each song that he [Silver] wanted to expand on that," said Livingston. "So he said, 'Let's make each one of you totally different and totally outrageous. Come to the warehouse, I'll find something for you.' He started off with this really subtle idea of Patti in a sort of Carole Lombard look and Shanna in this cute prom outfit. The problem was that everything in his warehouse was so outrageous because of 'Beach Blanket' that we ended up looking shocking."

With Lesser in a gold-sequined gown with giant dorsal fins, Carter in black with cigarettes stuck to him, and Livingston in a kilt with a bolt of gold lamé wrapped around him, The Flips said

they felt the audience watched them, but didn't listen.

"The ironic thing was, as much as we felt it didn't work for us, that was one night which was key in getting us nominated for the Cabaret Gold Award. People really seemed to like us," said Strassberg.

Despite Silver's assistance, they decided that night that their own subtle style was enough to keep audiences interested.

"So Steve and the four of us met," said Lesser, "and decided we should now go off and get our show together and work out our image because he said, 'You guys know what you're doing. You just need to do more of it.'"

The Flips perform Saturday nights in October at the City Cabaret, Geary and Mason streets, San Francisco. For information, call 441-7787. □

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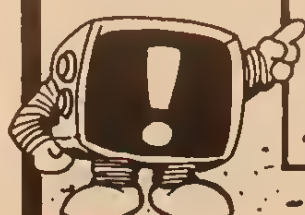
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The Perfect Alternative

McGee Adds Slap and Dash to New Vaudeville Clowning

By Gayle Passaretti

Red rubber nose affixed, bowler hat firmly on head, Mr. Dingo carries a violin case onto the stage. Carefully, he adjusts music upon the stand, opens the case and slides a pair of leather gloves onto his agile hands.

Slap-da-slap-bop-pop-slap-hippity-bop. Rhythm punctuates the silence as the gloves fly over his body.

The body-music is hambone. And when new vaudevillian Derique McGee, aka Mr. Dingo, performs, he recreates a tradition that resonates deep in the American marrow, a sound he says was brought by slaves to the New World.

"Here I am, doing clowning, and clowning is related to being the fool who people laugh at," says McGee. "To be black and portray this silly guy, I have to be careful because black minstrels, more or less, did the same thing that I'm doing, but their things were more stereotyped. They made fun of themselves. In a way, I make fun of myself, but it's not a black comic stereotype."

McGee relaxes in the sunny study of his Noe Valley apartment. His hands leap, palms up, through the air. Mr. Dingo performance fliers pepper the walls. In an upper corner hangs a large, florid painting of Mr. Dingo by McGee's brother.

McGee's broad face smiles easily; his manner is sincere, expansive, self-assured beyond his 22 years. Mr. Dingo, his alter ego, peeks out only once, when McGee swirls one of the dozens of hats scattered on the desk and shelves.

"What I'm trying to do with clowning is to put it in a show with a story line, plot, singing and dancing," he said. "Clowning is storytelling through silence."

Pantomime Bert Williams, who performed in the 1920s, is one of McGee's heroes. But contemporary role models are few.

"There aren't very many black clowns," he said. "It's really hard for me to get inspiration off of other black clowns because I don't see them. I have to look back at the old minstrel stuff or get inspired by tap dancers but then add my own clowning in the tap routine."

Although Mr. Dingo spends most of his time inside a trunk (which seemingly scoots itself onstage), the clown in McGee doesn't stop performing when he takes a final bow.

"A lot of these things I do in my clowning I did naturally as a kid. It's in my blood, in my heart. But somebody has got to make us laugh. Today there is so much going wrong in our society. We all feel good when we laugh, a good positive energy. And when somebody makes me laugh and my stomach hurts and I cry, oh God, it's the greatest."

McGee, formerly with Make★A★Circus and the Pickle Family Circus, has performed his own show for a year and, to his delight, critics such as Bernard Weiner of the *San Francisco Chronicle* have raved.

"You can take any prop, any situation, and develop a clown routine out of it," McGee said. "We laugh more when it's something that always happens. The clown just takes it and exaggerates." For example, McGee has lately been catching his clothes on doorknobs and chairs. In the near future, he says, Mr. Dingo also may have that same problem—to excess.

For McGee, as for many of the new vaudevillians, audience participation breaks down the "fourth wall" of the



Mr. Dingo, aka Derique McGee, treads a fine line as a black vaudevillian: is everybody laughing because he's a fine comic talent or because his clowning evokes memories of minstrel-shown stereotypes? Or both? Judge for yourself on Oct. 12 at the Noe Valley Ministry, when McGee kicks off the new Kidshows series with Keith Terry.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

stage and creates an intimacy crucial to comedy. He frequently pulls audience members onstage and asks them to perform a sound effect, such as a finger-in-cheek pop, when McGee gives a cue. Laughter results from the fact that not all of the instant assistants can do it.

The comic relief McGee provides, however, has no strings attached.

"I'm always going to give. It might not come back but I still give. I think it's just something from my heart. It's

something that's very important to clowning. It has to be very honest."

Derique McGee and fellow clown and new vaudevillian Keith Terry will kick off an eight-month children's series at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Tickets are \$3.50, available at the door, or by reservation at 282-2317. Coming events include Canadian children's TV singer and performer Eric Nagler on Nov. 16 and the Berkeley Ballet's "Nutcracker" Dec. 14. Series tickets are available for \$21. □



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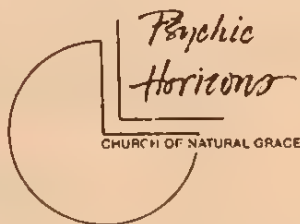
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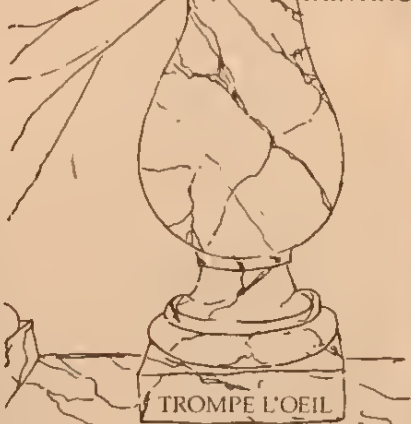
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By Mazook

GRIPES OF WRATH:

1. Getting those stinking packets in the mail from a Sunset District realtor with "Noe Notes" listing the addresses and prices of recent property sales in *this* neighborhood.

2. Going to Bell Market and finding *no* Soho Cream Soda. This stuff is great because it uses sparkling instead of carbonated water. "We can't keep it on the shelves," says one Bell checker.

3. Waiting in your car at the stop sign on Noe at 24th on Saturday (or Sunday after the 49ers game) for a break in the pedestrian parade. Honk!*

4. Being in the path of exhaust spewed by the 48-Quintara bus on 24th Street. Is Muni exempt from Federal emission standards?

5. Walking in the wake of dog owners who allow their mutts to crap on the sidewalks of Noe Valley, especially along the 24th Street promenade. (Can we make a citizen's arrest?)

6. Choking on lottery ticket scrapings blowing in the wind. Yuck. It's kinda like Robin Hood in reverse—take from the poor to make a few rich. Ironically, the real losers in the Big Spin are probably the intended beneficiaries, the schools. Does anybody see where the money goes? We want an accounting.

7. Seeing that damn brown Honda Civic wreck with Texas plates abandoned in Downtown Noe Valley's only public parking lot. Enough with the tickets, already. How 'bout a tow?

8. Recognizing the possibility that the political forces of evil may oust most of the California Supreme Court justices

and now
for
the

RUMORS

behind
the
news

(including the chief) because good people did nothing to stop it. Deadline for voter registration is Oct. 6, the election Nov. 4, if anybody cares.



GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING at James Lick Middle School. There is a new energetic bilingual principal, Alberto Aramendia, and more money for "special programs" (from desegregation funds) and computer hardware is available to accommodate the 570 students' 21st century needs.

Aramendia just left a two-year assignment with the state Department of Education as director of its Teacher Education and Computer Center. Before that, he was principal of John O'Connell High School in the Mission for 13 years.

While Lick ranked 18th out of 18 San Francisco middle schools in all categories on the 1985-86 "CAP" test (reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic), Aramendia says, "Those results are very misleading. English is the second language of over 30 percent of our students, many recent arrivals speaking either Spanish or an Indochinese dialect."

This year will see an expanded counseling facility, a new library media center (records, films, tapes), a fully equipped computer lab, special reading programs, and an after-school tutoring program. "Now all we need," smiles Aramendia, "is more kids from the neighborhood."



BRAVO BEAT: "Bravo! Bravo!" yelled the crowd at the show held Sept. 14 to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry featuring Bobby McFerrin, jazz vocalist rhiannon, flutist Larry Kassin, body musician/dancer Keith Terry, and vaudevillian Derique McGee (who does a show-stopping hambone). The roof-raising benefit brought in \$1,000 at the gate, "and we did well on refreshments," beamed fundraiser Kit Cameron.

McFerrin's a cappella rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" welled our eyes with patriotic (we wish) tears. He is soon off on a European tour (15 shows in 21 days). By the way, don't miss (and don't let your kids miss) a special children's show by Terry and McGee on

Oct. 12, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m., at the Ministry (1021 Sanchez).

According to local music shops, the Bravos of the Month go to Paul Simon and four unknown bands from the U.S.S.R. Simon's new album, *Graceland*, was inspired by an African disc, *Gambuts: Accordion Jive Hits, Volume III*, and is tops at Streetlight Records. Over at Aquarius there's a fast moving *Red Wave*, a jointly released collage of underground tapes by four Russian combos: Aquarium, Kino, Alisa and Strange Games. This album once again proves that music has no borders.



FOOD FRONT: Plate's Bakery is gone, but in its place is Sweet Cakes, the creation of Frank Tarantino, who comes to us from Marriott's Host (at the airport), where he was head pastry chef. "I worked there 14 years," says Frank, "but wanted my own business. I used to live in Diamond Heights and shopped 24th Street, always wanting to have a shop here of my own, and now I got one." On the menu: sweet cakes of course, cookies, breakfast Danish, French pastry and torts. "No breads or donuts," says Frank.

Apologies to Holey Bagel for the error here last month about Plate's being the last place on 24th Street to get freshly baked egg bread. "We've had traditional six-braided challah for about a year now, and it's really starting to catch on now," says Holey baker Gary Goldstein.

Coffee roaster Chris Calking of Spinelli Coffee says, "We opened our first retail outlet on 24th Street (next to Bell Market) because this is a food street." Chris and partner Arnold Spinelli roast their coffee on Folsom Street (not yet a food street) and sell to over 100 restaurants in the Bay Area. He describes the brand new Noe Valley shop as "a bean store with a tasting bar, European style."

In more coffee news, the sign that used to say "closed" in the Meat Market Coffeehouse window now says "very closed," and the NVBI is having trouble reaching the owner for the scoop. Looking very closed is Bernhard's Cafe on Church Street. Closing also is the Coffee Bin, on 24th Street for more than 10 years. Closed more than open these days

is Matsuya, nearby on 24th.

When Drwcs Market (Church and 29th) closed Aug. 13 for remodeling, owner Dave Carroll told customers to come back in a week or so. "After the first week, everyone was calling every day to ask us if we were open," says butcher Chip Karr. "Then some said they hadn't eaten in two weeks." The popular butcher shop finally re-opened 25 days later on Sept. 8. Lost sadly in the remodeling was the traditional butcher's sawdust-covered wood-slat floor, reportedly the last one in the city.

Meanwhile, the Everyday Cafe opened its doors a block from Drwcs, on Sanchez near 29th Street. Nyki Divecchio and Kim Abelson (owner of All You Knead cafe on Haight Street) bought the building (formerly a grocery store), remodeled it, and now serve deli-style food daily. The beer and wine are "on ice" until the ABC approves (there was one objection voiced in the neighborhood). Nyki is also going to display "three mint condition Acme Beer bottles from 1940, which we found in the wall while remodeling."



NOE QUIZ

1. What was Dan's Gas Station called when it first opened circa 1939?

2. Where was Mike the Barber's first shop located?

3. Where in Downtown Noe Valley can you find a class picture of Lowell High School's 1895 graduates?

4. What's the location of Noe Valley's smallest house?

The answers to these questions, and much more, will appear right here next month. Happy trails to you, until we meet again. □

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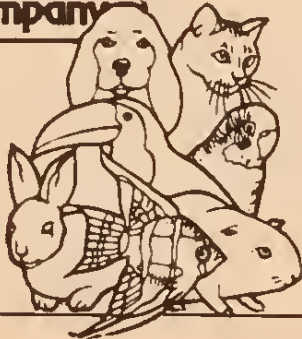
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PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Danielle Olivia Leeman

On July 16, 1986, at 9:38 a.m., Annie and Bill Leeman saw their 7-pound, 5-ounce daughter Danielle for the first time. They were in the delivery room of Mt. Zion Hospital and, says Bill, "I had all my greens on... oh boy, I'm almost gonna start crying right now... and what can I say? She looked real nice and had a whole bunch of hair. My God, it was the most incredible thing I've ever experienced."

The hair surprised Annie, too. "We were shocked that she looked so good. We thought she'd be bald with big ears."

Now that the excitement has died down, both parents (who met in a taxi four years ago and married eight months later) claim that their lifestyle with "Dani" is much the same as before. Bill, a 43-year-old contractor, and Annie, a 35-year-old ophthalmic technician, have discovered that Dani loves many of the

MORE MOUTHS to feed.

same things they do, from baseball (her Dad has managed the local Lip Rippers softball team for 12 years) to best friends.

"We're homebodies," says Annie, "and we have friends over for dinner and video movies a lot—both singles and parents." (The Leeman home on Clipper Street has even been nicknamed "Leeman Arms" by old friends, who have come to see it as a favorite social gathering place and haven for the homeless.)

Life in general, though, has become "more serious," says Bill. "Not that I've become a somber person," he assures us, "but I feel more responsible, and I do things differently. For example, I drive more carefully, and I don't laugh at baby jokes anymore—you know, like the one where the baseball flies into the bleachers and lands on the baby's soft spot."

On the other hand, adds Annie, life has also become more whimsical. "Rosie, our black Lab, just loves to lick Dani clean every day, and our 12-year-old cat loves to sit on her." It's obvious, though, the pets are peeved at Mom and Dad's devotion to their new daughter. Annie admits, "I never knew I could feel this way about anybody!"

For Bill, a big eyeopener has been "how much I love to change her. Somehow, I avoided ever changing a baby, all my life. But now I don't even mind getting up in the middle of the night. I love it, and she loves it. Hell yes, it's a wonderful thing!"



PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Drew Scheffers Levitt

Drew Scheffers Levitt is a "great little camper," according to his parents, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers. Born April 3, 1986, at Kaiser Hospital, and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces at birth, Drew has already gone on six camping trips, four of which featured rivers.

"He likes to watch the trees and the sun glistening off the river," says Dad, "and he tunes in to the sounds of the river, too."

That's no surprise, considering that Howard, 37, a management assistant for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Wendy, 34, a teacher of the visually impaired, are both white-water river guides. In fact, the two met on a raft while members of Environmental Traveling Companions, a travel organization for people with special needs. Both parents still spend a great deal of time

on water, not only for guiding river trips, but also for ocean kayaking. "We imagine he's got river in his blood," says Dad.

Although settled for the time being into their home on Day Street, the Levitts, who traveled internationally for 10 months on their honeymoon, plan to travel again when Drew is older. "We'd like to raise Drew with an awareness of the world and people in the world," says Wendy. "We can see that this has to wait until Drew is old enough not to put everything into his mouth, and to tell us what's the matter if he's sick, but we've made a point of 'carrying on' with our lifestyle, and he's already been on an airplane four times."

For now, though, Howard and Wendy are both slightly in shock because "we never guessed it would be this much fun!" Says Howard, "My biggest surprise was how precious he became, so immediately. I didn't even have to grow into it." And, elaborates Wendy, "I'm amazed I was ever afraid of resenting my child. If you're worried about that, don't; you're gonna love it."

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F. 94114. Also include your phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.



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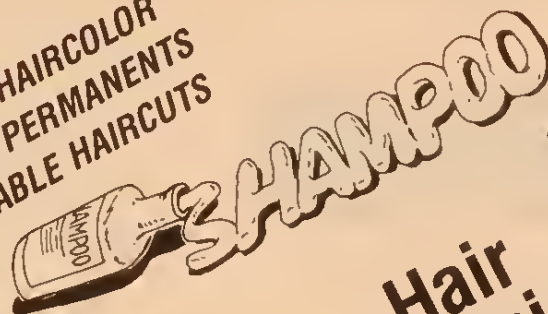


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Adult Fiction

The Beet Queen—Louise Erdrich

A Girl of Forty—Herbert Gold

Regrets Only—Sally Quinn

Night Games—Collin Wilcox

Adult Non-Fiction

The American Cancer Society Cancer Book: Prevention, Detection, Diagnosis, Treatment, Rehabilitation, Cure—Arthur Holleb, ed.

How to Avoid Lawyers: a Step-by-Step Guide to Being Your Own Lawyer in Almost Every Situation—Don Biggs
1986 Guide to Used Cars, 1980-85—Consumer Reports Books

Men Who Hate Women—and the Women Who Love Them—Susan Forward

The Skeptical Consumer's Guide to Used Computers—Ed Kahn and Charles Seiter

Inside Track: a Successful Job Search Method—William Lareau

Ernie's War: the Best of Ernie Pyle's World War II Dispatches—Ernie Pyle

Snake—Ken Stabler

Children's Fiction

The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost—John

Bellairs (ages 10 and up)

Bedtime—Kate Duke (1-3)

Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back—Trinka Nobel (4-8)

My Baby-Sitter—Anne & Harlow Rockwell (3-5)

Mrs. Minetta's Car Pool—Elizabeth Spurr (8-10)

Children's Non-Fiction

The Twisted Witch and Other Spooky

Riddles—David Adler (6-9)

My Visit to the Dinosaurs—Alike (4-8)

Amelia Earhart Takes Off—Fern Brown (8-12)

Going to the Potty—Fred Rogers (for young children and their parents)

Holiday Parties—Judith Streb (9 and up)

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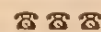
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DOMINICAN GUILD Christmas Boutique ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero, SE. Nov. 8 & 9, 1986. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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BODYWORK offered by Veronica Kleinberg. There is no substitute for the human touch. Polarity treatments combined with Shiatsu. Excellent for stress reduction and emotional energy balancing. Swedish massage available. Daytime preferred. Nonsexual. Noe Valley location. 641-8377.

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CENTRAL AMERICAN refugees need jobs! Housework, gardening, construction, odd jobs. Hardworking. Low rates. Church-sponsored. 540-5296.

"THE MORE YOU LET other people tell you how to sail your boat, the less the boat belongs to you." Vernon Howard local friendly classes. 661-0148.

WANTED: INFANT SHARE CARE. Working mother in Noe Valley seeks other mom to share a caregiver. Beginning in November for a 4-month-old. Fulltime. Call Mignone or Chris, 647-5849.

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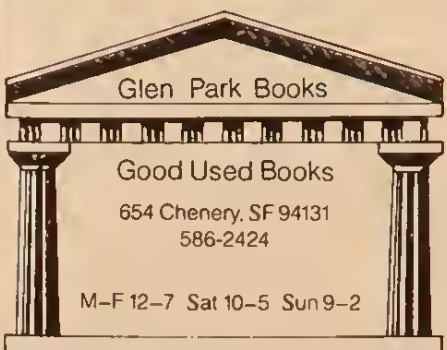
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CLASS ADS



PHOTO BY TINA WENDT-ABRAMSON

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NEIGHBORHOOD HAULERS is right in your neighborhood. Call us for all your hauling needs, including debris and old furniture removal. We are fast, careful, honest, friendly and low-priced. Call today for a free estimate. We are reached through "Voice Express" message service, 979-1659. Calls returned promptly. Please leave day and evening numbers. Please speak clearly. Call anytime.

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WINDOW REPAIRS. We caulk windows, replace ropes and glass. Aluminum windows and carpentry repairs. Free est. City Window Service, 664-6391.

ALGEBRA BLUES? Call Noyes Tutoring at 285-6348.

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DRUGS A PROBLEM? Has use become abuse? If you've tried unsuccessfully to stop using cocaine, alcohol, marijuana, etc., and would like some help in straightening out your life, call Peter Schumacher, MFCC (#MK-21837), at 821-1652. Relationship counseling and individual psychotherapy also available.

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY: Neighborhood public school art program needs your "wonderful junk." Wood, plastic, paint, paper, brushes and decorative items. Call Alana, 647-6947. Tax-deductible.

JOB OPENINGS at Church Street shop Shampoo for two manicurists and one hairstylist. Experienced only. Also, two stations for rent. Call 282-0304.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING season has arrived. Call for estimate. Backyard Orchards, 282-2550.

FANTASTIC PUPPET SHOWS! Dinosaurs, Mary Poppins and more. Dragonfly Puppet Theatre. 552-1099.

PSYCHOTHERAPY interfacing your spiritual understandings with clinical work. Mab Maher, Ph.D., PA #SB11435. 647-2475.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE. Clothes, household items, furniture, appliances and delicious goodies. Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

15-30-MONTH-OLDS and parents; Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m. Bethany Church, Sanchez and Clipper streets. Free Community College parent/child class. 863-5755.

DEPRESSED? UNHAPPY? Can't cope? Discover authentic answers to life. Local Vernon Howard classes, \$3. 661-0148, 647-6121.

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GRANDMA'S HOUSECLEANING. "Doing Work With Pride" since 1970. Old-fashioned housecleaning, done weekly or bi-monthly. Bonded and insured. Call 387-5600, 9-5, M-F.

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BASIC 35mm COLOR Photography Classes. Near 24th St. BART. Class size 6 maximum. Answers to questions about your equipment and pictures. Covers films, filters, exposure, composition, photographing a wide variety of subjects and saving money on supplies. Credentialed, experienced, professional photographer. Affordable, with discount for advance registration. Individual consultations available. Call Norman Prince at 821-6595.

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CALENDAR

OCT. 1: Cartoonist MATT GROENING signs copies of *Work Is Hell and Love Is Hell* at Cover To Cover Booksellers party 3910 24th St. near Sanchez 7 p.m. 282-8080.

OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: INFANT-TODDLER LAPSIT for infants to 3 years Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7 p.m. 285-2788.

OCT. 3-5: St. Paul's Parish celebrates its annual PARISH FESTIVAL with the theme "Lady Liberty." The event includes booths, prizes, games for kids of all ages, and different ethnic foods. 29th & Church streets. Fri., 6-9 p.m., Sat. & Sun., noon-10 p.m. 648-7538

OCT. 4: Learn from an expert how to make the "best Scottish shortbread in the world" at a BAKER'S TREAT, a fundraiser for the Noe Valley Ministry's Centennial Revitalization Fund. Bethany Church Kitchen, 1268 Sanchez St. Clipper. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 285-2149

OCT. 5: Committee to Save Our Neighborhood Merchants sponsors a benefit for the Commercial Rent Arbitration Initiative with a CONCERT featuring the Latin All Stars. Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission St. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 647-5995

OCT. 9-11: Intersection for the Arts presents PERFORMANCE ARTIST Eleanor Antin in *Help! I'm in Seattle*, the latest installment in the life and adventures of Eleanor Antinova, the celebrated black ballerina of Olaghelev's Ballet Russe. 766 Valencia St. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m. 626-3311

OCT. 9-NOV. 16: Eye Gallery displays "Portraits of and by the Developmentally Disabled." PHOTOGRAPHS taken by Peter Reiss and his students at the Art Center of the Exceptional Children's Foundation in L.A. Reception Oct. 10. 758 Valencia St. Thurs.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. 431-6911

OCT. 10: Community Boards of S.F., a conflict resolution service, holds an OPEN HOUSE to celebrate "a decade of peacemaking in S.F." 120 27th St. near Guerrero. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 552-1250.

OCT. 11: THE MICROSCOPIC SEPTET, four saxes and a rhythm section, features new wave, swing and jazz music at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317



Koichi Tamano plays the old woman Komako in the Theatre of Yugen's production of "Komachi Fuden" at the New Performance Gallery Oct. 15-Nov. 2. PHOTO BY NANCY BECKMAN

OCT. 14: FILM PROGRAM for children ages 3-5 includes *Where the Wild Things Are*, *King of the Cats* and *The Three Robbers*. 10 & 11 a.m. The afternoon program for kids ages 6 and up presents *Teeny-Tiny and the Witch Woman* and *Soup and Me*. 3:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

OCT. 15-NOV. 2: Theatre of Yugen presents the U.S. premiere of the contemporary TRAGICOMEDY *Komachi Fuden*, the story of a legendary Japanese beauty by Shogo Ohla, translated by Mark Harbison. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. Wed.-Sun., 8 p.m., Sun., 3 p.m. 922-7870.

OCT. 16: A delegation of the Woman to Woman Campaign reports on its 10-day trip to Nicaragua with a SLIDESHOW and discussion about women's participation in agricultural cooperatives, health and childcare projects and the constitutional process. Dolores St. Baptist Church, 15th & Dolores streets. 7:30 p.m. 652-4400, ext. 419.

OCT. 17: Ray Patten, the director of a visual arts program for disabled adults called Creativity Explored, discusses artwork by his developmentally disabled clients with a slideshow called "ART AND DISABILITY." Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 431-6911

OCT. 18: Noe Valley Ministry hosts the piano-trumpet duets of JESSICA WILLIAMS and TOM PERON. 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

OCT. 18, 25 & NOV. 1: KADEKA DANCES FOR KIDS features new dances and repertory favorites for children. Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 2 p.m. 550-7189.

OCT. 19: Students of the String Players Workshop present a BENEFIT UNICEF CONCERT. Students ages 7-14 perform the music of Vivaldi, Handel, Kreisler, and others. Guest artist Rosemary Johnson plays music of Wienawski and William Grant Still. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7 p.m. 648-6405

OCT. 20: TAI CHI MOVEMENT for Health comes to Noe Valley Ministry. Exercises and Tai Chi form taught by Chris Sequeira. 1021 Sanchez St. Mondays, 6-7 p.m. 756-6857

OCT. 21: Old Wives' Tales celebrates the publication of *Leave A Light On For Me*, a LESBIAN LOVE STORY about four Bay Area women and their explorations of issues for adult children of alcoholics and incest survivors. 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675.

OCT. 23: LILLIAN RUBIN discusses her book *Quiet Rage. Bernie Goetz in a Time of Madness*, which examines the lives of Goetz and his victims, and explores how this case has become a locus for our anxieties concerning race, poverty and crime. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246.

OCT. 24: Pianist Joseph Illick and singer Virginia St. Michael, who have performed widely in Europe and the U.S., appear in a CONCERT which features the works of Mozart, Schumann, Strauss, Berlioz, Britten and Rorem. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 8 p.m. 647-6015

OCT. 24-NOV. 29: Phase One Productions opens an American premiere of *SOLZHENITSYN*. The drama about the Soviet dissident and writer is set in different locales, from the USSR to the USA. Nova Theater, 347 Dolores at 16th. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m. 864-0235

OCT. 25: Bay Area Composers Alliance presents a CONCERT of "Fresh Music" with works by Tom Constanten, Stephen Dick, Peter Joshell and Larry Kasson. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317.

OCT. 25: U.C.S.F.'s Second Annual Children and Family HEALTH FAIR features puppets, face-painting, and free UCSF T-shirts. This one-day event focuses on good health, stress reduction, and disease prevention. All activities and parking at the Millberry Union Garage are free. Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus Ave. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 476-2557.

OCT. 25: Bethany Methodist Church invites the neighborhood to a FALL FESTIVAL BAZAAR featuring handmade gifts, Christmas decorations, plants, baked goods and white elephant items. 1268 Sanchez St. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Lunch, noon-2 p.m.)

OCT. 26: The PARNASSUS PUPPETS, Robert LeRoy Smith's marionettes, perform their new Halloween show, "The Haunted House," which stars ghosts, witches, a werewolf, a vampire, a devil and other assorted monsters. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 3 p.m. 647-7169

OCT. 26: Join the Woman to Woman Campaign in a COMMUNITY CANVASS to raise funds for childcare in Nicaragua, a special effort to support children orphaned by the war and to rebuild centers destroyed by the U.S.-backed contras. La Raza Graphics, 938 Valencia St. Orientation, 3 p.m., canvassing 5-8:30 p.m. Food and celebration follow. 652-4400, ext. 419.

OCT. 27: Oavid Braun, student of Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, speaks at AIDS HEALING SERVICE. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 6:30 p.m. 928-HOPE.

OCT. 28: HALLOWEEN CRAFT PROGRAM for ages 5 and older. Event is free and materials are provided. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 3:30 p.m. 285-2788.

OCT. 28: Modern Times Bookstore hosts Edmundo Anchondo, member of the LULAC Council, who explains and analyzes PROPOSITION 63 and the campaign to make English the official California language. 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

OCT. 29-NOV. 30: S.F. Repertory opens its new season with the WORLD PREMIERE of *Goals, et al.* Reduced-rate preview performances Oct. 24-26 precede the official opening. 4147 19th St. at Collingwood. 8 p.m. 864-3305.

OCT. 30: Old Wives' Tales celebrates its TENTH BIRTHDAY. Event includes a store sale and party with S.F. Lesbian Chorus, belly dancing, food and a reading of old wives' tales. Submit old wives' tales for reading by Oct. 15. 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675.

OCT. 31: Adults and children are invited to a HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL, a benefit for the Yoey Children's Center, featuring a haunted house, clowns and puppets, booths, prizes, food and games. 325 Sanchez St. at 16th. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 861-6346.

NOV. 1: Jazz flutist ERNIE MANSFIELD brings his group to Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317.

NOV. 1: Bethany Methodist Church, Noe Valley Ministry and Irwin Memorial Blood Bank welcome volunteer donors to the first Noe Valley COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 567-6400 ext. 426.

NOV. 2: Noe Valley resident John Krich reads and signs copies of his NEW NOVEL *One Big Bed*. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 3910 24th St. 2:30 p.m. 282-8080.

OCTOBER 1986

OCT. 5-NOV. 21: Seventh Autumn Annual at GALLERY SANCHEZ Reception for artists, Oct. 5, 2-4 p.m. Gallery hours, Mon.-Fri., 2-5 p.m., by appointment. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

OCT. 6: Coalition of United Tradeswomen sponsors a "Women of Color POETRY READING" with poets Regina Gabrielle, Rosemary Leyson, and Ariban. Proceeds go toward planning the 1987 Conference for Tradeswomen. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

OCT. 6: The Real Food Company sponsors a FREE LECTURE, "All You Need to Know About Candida Albicans," by Christopher Lawrence, a Nature's Plus spokesperson. 3939 24th St. 8:15 p.m. 282-9500

OCT. 6: The S.F. Intergenerational Program and Tale Spinners Theater begin a series of WORKSHOPS in "Musical Theater for Youth and Age Acting Together," led by Kate Mendeloff and Richard Koldewyn. 117 Diamond St. Call 861-2415 for details.

OCT. 7, 21, 28: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for children ages 3-5. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 11 a.m. 285-2788.

OCT. 9: Contributors to *A Faith of One's Own*, an anthology of WRITINGS BY CATHOLIC LESBIANS, discuss issues raised by their dual identities as lesbian Catholics. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

OCT. 12: The Independent Citizens Committee, organized to support Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird's reconfirmation, sponsors a "Non-Partisan POTLUCK PICNIC." Douglass Park, Douglass and 26th streets. 1-4 p.m. 544-0126.

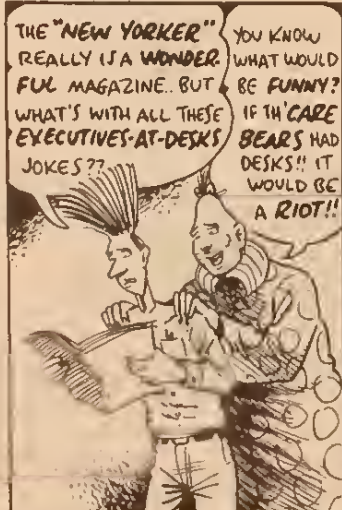
OCT. 12: Join New Vaudevillian Derique McGee and inventive percussionist Keith Terry for the inaugural program of the KIDSHOWS Performing Arts Series for Families. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 2:30 & 3:30 p.m. 282-2317

OCT. 12: THE ASWAN DANCERS invite you to the magical land of Cairo Cabaret. "Christopher Columbus Discovers Cairo Cabaret at Baghdad by the Bay" features the rhythms and melodies of the "Cairo Cats" in addition to new and old choreography by the Aswan Dancers. 362 Capp St. 3 p.m. 282-7910.

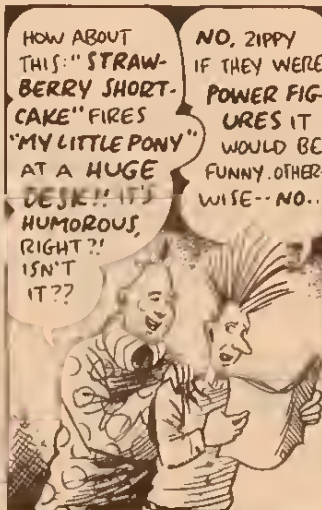
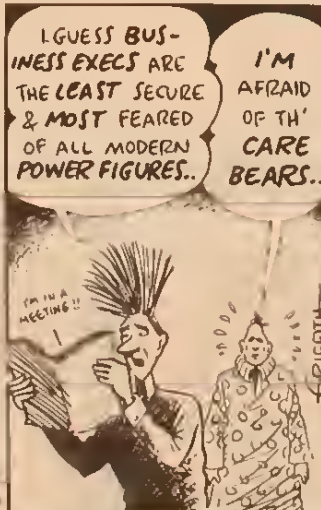
OCT. 12, 19, & 26: Noe Valley Ministry hosts a Sunday morning SERIES ON AIDS called "Gays and Straights Together." Worship at 10 a.m., followed by AIDS education at 11:30 a.m. and concluding with a healing service. 1021 Sanchez St. Contact Hope Raymond at 282-2265.



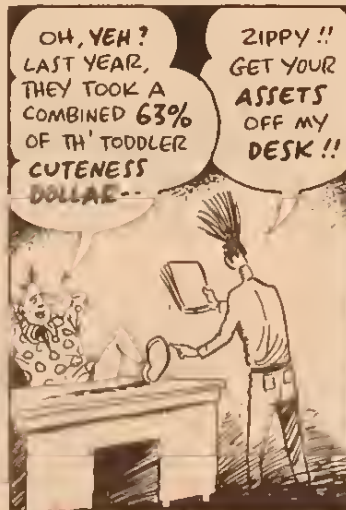
ZIPPY



"PROPHET and LOSS"



BILL GRIFFITH



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note: Our next issue will appear Nov. 4. The deadline for calendar items is Oct. 15.